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Free to Deployed Areas

AN UNCERTAIN MIDEAST

Trump's positions on Syria, Islamic State could bring more unrest to region

By LEE KEATH
Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump's positions on Middle East issues, if carried out, could bring yet more volatility to the world's most combustible region.

Besides vowing to rip up the international nuclear deal with Iran, Trump says he will ramp up the war on Islamic State militants; he could make the Palestinians more desperate by siding with Israel's hard-line right wing. He also seems set to end the Obama administration's cold shoulder toward authoritarianism like Egypt's Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Trump has most often been vague and sometimes outright contradictory about plans in the Mideast. And his stances could change. His call for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. worried many in the region, but he has since watered down that stance, and many opinion-makers in the Gulf at least call it simply campaign rhetoric.

SEE TRUMP ON PAGE 6

U.S. soldiers move through Qayara Airfield West, south of Mosul, Iraq, on Wednesday.

MARKO DRONJAKOVIC/AP



More than 100 troops seeking transgender care

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — More than 100 transgender troops have informed the services that they want to transition to the opposite gender, and to be formally recognized in their new genders or are seeking counseling or medical treatment, according to documents and the military.

The troops are coming forward after the Pentagon's new policy allowing the open service of transgender troops went into effect Oct. 1.

About 55 enlisted sailors and officers have informed their commanders they want to transition to the other gender, according to Lt. Cdr. Nate Christensen, a Navy spokesman. There are 48 airmen who are seeking transgender medical care or counseling, said

Maj. William Lewis, an Air Force spokesman. In October, Army chief of staff Gen. Mark Milley told the Associated Press that 10 soldiers had formally sought to be recognized in their new genders.

Sailors were informed Monday about the transgender sailors and were urged to abide by the new policy, according to an email from the Navy's chief of personnel.

"Today, we know of approximately 55

sailors who have waited for this policy to be finalized, and desire a gender transition," Vice Adm. Robert Burke wrote in an email to commanders obtained by USA Today. "With few exceptions, these sailors have had faith that the Navy would come through, and they observed all regulations and standards applicable to their birth gender."

SEE GENDER ON PAGE 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm quite certain Trump will give someone grounds for impeachment, either by doing something that endangers national security or because it helps his pocketbook."

—Professor Allan Lichtman, one of the few people to predict Donald's Trump's election victory

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MILITARY

Strike killed 10 allies in Somalia

Attack highlights consequences of drone operations in nation run by militias

By KEVIN SIEFF
The Washington Post

NAIROBI — An American drone strike thought to have struck Islamist militants in Somalia actually killed 10 members of a regional force allied with the United States, according to results of a Pentagon investigation that have not yet been made public.

The September incident sheds light on the escalating involvement of U.S. forces in Somalia's protracted war against al-Shabab, a group of al-Qaida-linked militants. It also points to the unforeseen consequences of increased U.S. drone strikes in a country still run by clan militias.

"They've helped us out against a common enemy," a U.S. military official said Thursday, referring to the regional forces who were killed in the strike. "If we had known who they were, we would have done everything we could to prevent it." He spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation's findings are not yet public.

As the United States has waded further into Somalia, it has struggled to form a coalition of allies from a range of rival groups. Two of those groups — from the states of Puntland and Galmudug — have targeted and arrested al-Shabab terrorists, and received American accolades for doing so.

But the groups also have been fighting one another for decades, mostly over territory in the city of Galkayo.

On Sept. 28, Puntland security forces were sent to investigate a "suspicious group" thought to be al-Shabab based on American surveillance imagery, according to the U.S. official.

American forces accompanied the patrol as advisers until they neared the unknown group. It was early in the morning, and visibility was limited when Puntland forces "started taking fire," said the U.S. official. They asked for air support, and the U.S. military launched the drone strike.

Shortly after the attack, officials in Galmudug began accusing the United States of killing its own allies. They released images of gov-



By SHOLINE/Stars and Stripes

ernment vehicles destroyed by the strike. There were protests in the streets. People burned American flags.

In interviews with The Washington Post in a hospital in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, two survivors of the strike who belonged to the Galmudug forces described the way it had hammered their unit.

"Small aircraft, sounding like flies, started hovering over us," said one survivor, Ali Adan Mohamed. "At about 6 in the morning, the airstrike started, the aircraft fired three missiles."

"I believed that the U.S. was neutral, but now it seems to me that they have sided with one of two clans," he said.

When Galmudug state officials heard what happened, they were furious with the Americans.

"There is not any justification that could lead to such disaster," Minister Osman Ise Nur, the head of Galmudug's security operations, said in a phone interview. "We were amazed with what has happened to our forces despite the fact that they were fighting al-Shabab."

The U.S. Africa Command issued a statement shortly after the attack that described the target of the strike as "a group of armed al-Shabab fighters."

But a new Pentagon report, parts of which were described to The Washington Post, contradicts

that initial conclusion.

"We responded and struck the hostile force with the belief that it was al-Shabab," the U.S. official said. "But we recognize that they were Galmudug forces."

In other words, the United States appeared to have unwittingly entered into a war between two regional fighting forces, both its allies.

More than 75,000 people have been displaced by the fighting between Puntland and Galmudug forces in recent months, and are "in dire need of humanitarian assistance," according to Abdelgadir Galal Ahmed, the Norwegian Refugee Council's country director.

Somalia has been torn apart by civil war for 25 years, resulting in chaos that allowed the rise of al-Shabab in 2005. The White House considers the group one of its top concerns in sub-Saharan Africa, in part because its attacks extend beyond Somalia to civilian targets in neighboring Kenya, including the bloody strike on Nairobi's upscale Westgate Mall in 2013.

The United States has a particularly strong relationship with the Puntland forces and has for years helped to train them.

Although the U.S. Africa Command investigation found that the drone strike had inadvertently killed Galmudug forces, it nonetheless ruled that the action was "legitimate" in that it probably saved the lives of the United States' Puntland allies.

"The strike was clearly lawful," the U.S. military official said.

Not long after the strike, Stephen Schwartz, the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to Somalia, met with Abdulkarim Hussein Guled, the president of Galmudug, and other local officials. Galmudug officials said the ambassador apologized for the strike. The State Department would not confirm the apology.

Unlike politicians in countries like Afghanistan, who have denounced U.S. drone strikes because of collateral damage, Somalia's government has been supportive of the attacks aimed at al-Shabab.

"I heard that in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the experience of the

drone was not good," the country's president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, said in an interview in April. "But here they are precise, and we are informed of them before."

The drone strike and the controversy over it came just before Somalia's presidential election, set for Nov. 30, and as Western donor nations are revising plans for the country's national army, which is largely considered poorly structured, incompetent and unaccountable.

A new plan would provide more assistance to regional forces, such as the one in Galmudug, which are seen as having more legitimacy in their own states, rather than just funding a national army that's recruited largely from Mogadishu and not welcome in much of the fractured nation.

"We need to have a greater involvement of the regions, because the problem at the moment is the Somali National Army is seen as supporting one clan," said a senior Western official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of sensitivity involving military planning. "It is not a national army, and it is more likely to provoke violence in some areas."

Melding those regional forces into a single Somali fighting force is an enormous challenge. But the current situation, in which regional fighting forces target both al-Shabab and one another, is untenable, officials and experts say.

"We can't have a state that has all sorts of armed forces lingering around with all sorts of loyalties," said another Western official.

More than 20,000 troops are based in Somalia as part of the African Union's mission there. Those troops are set to begin withdrawing in 2018, and the international community has been desperate to find a Somali solution to the country's security problems.

The United States has pledged to defend its Somali partners while also targeting high-profile Islamist militants. It has conducted more than a dozen airstrikes and drone strikes in 2016, according to Defense Department statements.

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MILITARY

Billions in war-related spending requested

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Thursday asked Congress for \$11.6 billion in additional war-related funding, including money to fight Islamic State militants, sustain higher overseas troop levels and modernize the Afghan military's helicopter fleet.

The request was sent to lawmakers for consideration during the lame-duck session that starts next week. It's evenly divided between the Pentagon and the State Department and foreign aid accounts related to battling the Islamic State group.

"In addition to enhancing our effort to defeat ISIL, this plan would fund the president's decision to adjust our troop levels to better support the Afghan government's strategy to secure its nation, and would help enhance Afghanistan's aviation capability," said Defense Secretary Ash Carter, using an alternate acronym for the Islamic State group. "Swift passage of this plan will help the Department of Defense and our partners in the U.S. government and around the world protect this nation."

The request's fate in the coming weeks is uncertain. It's not clear whether Congress will control Congress want to do about a raft of unfinished spending bills now that Donald Trump has won the White House.

While top Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., want to clear away the unfinished budget work — and avoid cluttering the Trump agenda with this year's leftovers — many conservatives hope to win better outcomes next year with Trump in the White House.

At the very least, however, Congress must pass a temporary spending bill to avert a government shutdown next month, which would give lawmakers and the new administration time to hash out a final accord on more than \$1 trillion in unfinished bills to fund ongoing programs.

Before the election, Democrats promised they would try to play a strong hand against GOP moves to beef up the defense budget without comparable treatment for domestic programs. The White House and congressional Democrats insist that additional defense dollars be matched with increases for nondefense programs, and pairing the upcoming Pentagon request with nondefense items that would still fit under the umbrella of security costs could free up money for domestic programs elsewhere.

The military portion includes \$2.5 billion to maintain elevated U.S. troops levels of 8,400 in Afghanistan as announced over the summer. About \$383 million would be for airstrikes against the Islamic State group. The re-



President Barack Obama speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington on Wednesday.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Gay rights loom as hurdle to passage of defense bill

By RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats will have to bridge a vast cultural divide over an issue that has nothing to do with bullets and bombs to complete a must-pass defense policy bill.

A key sticking point in the negotiations during the upcoming same-duck session is a House-passed provision that Senate Democrats say would undercut protections against workplace discrimination based on sexual or gender orientation. They've called the measure dangerous and are demanding it be removed from the \$602 billion measure.

Many House Republicans, however, view the provision as a bulwark for religious liberty and just as adamantly want it kept in the final package. Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election has strengthened their hand should the contentious debate begin anew next year.

"It's going to be a tough one for them to figure out," Justin Johnson, a Heritage Foundation policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Drop the amendment and risk a backlash from rank-and-file Republicans, he said. Keep it in and Democrats could mobilize to block the defense bill, which authorizes spending for military programs that range from jet fighters to a pay raise for the troops.

A filibuster carries risks for Democrats. They could be hammered by the GOP for stymieing legislation important to U.S. servicemembers and their families. And even if the provision is dropped to avoid a veto by President Barack Obama,

Republicans — who control both houses of Congress — could wait until Trump is in the White House and attach the provision to a different bill.

"I think the election gives congressional Republicans a lot more leverage on this issue," Johnson said. "They don't have to be too worried about a veto threat because the situation only improves next year."

Although much of Trump's agenda on social issues remains opaque, he assured conservatives during the campaign that he would place a high priority on religious liberty.

The tenure of Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, the vice president-elect, was punctuated by his steadfast support for conservative social issues that at times drew unwanted attention to the state, most notably when a religious objections law he signed provoked a backlash from critics who said it could sanction discrimination against gay people.

David Stacy, government affairs director at the Human Rights Campaign, acknowledged that the long-term prospects for barring the amendment from passing are challenging. But he said he's bullish about the short term.

Congress has little incentive to drag out a lame-duck session, and that means passing a defense bill unburdened by a provision that has no bearing on the Pentagon's core missions, according to Stacy.

Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said the request was not enough since it "does not accommodate the increased pace of operations against the Islamic State group and does nothing to begin addressing the readiness crisis."

aid for Somalia, among other purposes.

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Trump win might result in bigger troop pay raises

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After years of being squeezed, troops and their families are hoping for higher pay raises, and the surprise victory of Donald Trump might make that more likely — even before the president-elect takes office in January.

Congress has been debating whether to risk President Barack Obama's veto by adding \$18 billion to the annual defense budget and giving troops the highest pay raise in years. Trump's election might now embolden Republican lawmakers to press harder this year for that money, or at least a chunk of it, now that it is certain their party has claimed the White House, according to budget experts.

Military pay raises have been held to less than 2 percent since 2011, below that of private-sector wage growth, while troops and families have been stressed by deployments. The pay hike has become a top concern, and the nonprofit National Military Family Association wrote an open letter to Trump after Tuesday's election asking that it be made a priority.

Overworked and feeling "nickel-and-dimed," the military wants the president and Congress to provide the 2.1 percent raises that it is supposed to receive under law, said Joyce Wessel-Raezer, executive director of the association.

"If a new administration would say, 'We are going to find a way in our budget to give you the full increase that is in law,' that would be a huge message," she said.

Congress has been debating for months the possibility of the higher raise as part of the \$602 billion defense budget, but the raise depends on an additional \$18 billion hike. The Armed Services committees in the House and Senate — both controlled by the Republican majority — are split on whether to push ahead with the hike against Obama's veto threat and an insistence by Democrats that each dollar be matched with more domestic spending.

But the earlier defense budget calculus by Republicans might have changed Tuesday when Trump pulled off a sweeping victory that shocked many pundits and poll watchers. Election polling had indicated Trump would likely lose to Democrat Hillary Clinton and that Democrats could gain in Congress, meaning an even dimmer political outlook for Republicans next year.

"They thought they might lose the Senate and they might as well get the best (budget) deal they could. ... Now I think there is a feeling in Congress, more than ever, that they could push much harder. I expect them to be more

'They thought they might lose the Senate and they might as well get the best (budget) deal they could. Now I think there is a feeling they could push much harder.'

Mark Cancian

Center for Strategic and International Studies

aggressive than they would have been otherwise," said Mark Cancian, senior adviser for the international security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a bipartisan think tank in Washington.

Obama might now be less likely to follow through with his veto threat, and Democrats in Congress might be more willing to make a deal knowing Republicans will have more control and leverage next year when Congress proposes his first defense budget, said Sarah Binder, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington.

"I think the thing is, this level of spending plays in comparison to the level of challenges coming next year," Binder said.

Earlier this year, the Senate Armed Services Committee and its Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opted to avoid a political fight with the Democrats. It crafted a defense bill that called for the 1.6 percent troop pay raise requested by Obama.

But the House Armed Services Committee and its Chairman Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, spearheaded a 2.1 percent raise and the \$18 billion hike despite the veto threat.

Now, the two committees are set to return to Washington on Monday and continue negotiating a final deal, which could include some or all of the House's hike. Congress has been in recess since September.

The Republican lawmakers could be emboldened by the election to push Congress and the president for more, said Justin Johnson, a senior defense budget policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington.

"I think now you have a situation where the Republicans on the committees can almost dare President Obama to veto it," Johnson said. "It certainly gives them more flexibility."

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VETERANS

Private moments shared on Veterans Day

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — On Veterans Day — a day of many public events and ceremonies all across the country — it's the private moments that mean the most.

Moments such as Afghanistan War veteran Jess Karcher seeing his cousin's name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for the first time. Or something simpler, like World War II veteran Fred Soloduk, 91, getting pushed in his wheelchair by his grandson on the National Mall.

Stars and Stripes went around Washington on Friday morning to see how veterans were spending the day.

'It was for them'

Before 8 a.m. Friday, the Soloduk family arrived at the National World War II Memorial, Fred Soloduk being pushed in his wheelchair by his grandson, Steve Soloduk, while Steve's father, Warren Soloduk, ran ahead and snapped photos of them.

The family came early for a 9 a.m. ceremony. Afterward, they wanted to get something to eat and "enjoy the scenery," Soloduk said.

They had come from Reston, Va., for the day, but the elder Soloduk spent most of his life in Somerville, N.J. he said.

He's a U.S. Navy veteran and was overseas three years during WWII. His son, Warren Soloduk, 58, retired from the U.S. Coast Guard.

The three generations now make regular trips together to the WWII memorial.

Across the way, Afghanistan War veteran Jess Karcher, 36, was experiencing his first visit to the site.

He tagged along with three Vietnam War veterans who come up from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., every year for Veterans Day. The four met through Chapter 133 of the Disabled Veterans for America.

Some years, as many as 15 people from the chapter make the trip. But Vietnam War veterans Mike Varga, 67, Jim Zane, who turns 69 on Saturday, and Gregory Chiappini, 67, are mainstays.

Karcher, a former Marine who served in Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002, said it was his first time in Washington. He "couldn't think of a better time to do it," he said.

The four visited Arlington Na-



Meredith Tackett/Stars and Stripes

Gary McCloud, foreground, a retired Marine corporal, relaxes at the U.S. Navy Memorial on Friday on the National Mall in Washington with Ed Dick. Both men were part of the first all Native American Honor Flight out of Nevada on Thursday.

tional Cemetery and the Marine Corps War Memorial on Thursday, and they were planning to attend a ceremony Friday afternoon at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where all of them had friends and family etched into the wall.

"It's an honor to come up here with Vietnam vets," Karcher said. "It's breathtaking. It makes you humble. Especially going to Arlington Cemetery and seeing all the graves. Just speechless. That's all I can say."

The group agreed that seeing people bring their children to the memorials and knowing that younger generations were learning about their service was especially heartening.

"They need to respect the whole situation and be thankful we were there and we did it," Varga said.

"We didn't think at the time that it was for them, but it was."

Honoring women

Military nurse Loretta Aiken and Vietnam War veteran John Black swapped stories near the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Friday morning, both preparing to speak before a small crowd gathering there.

Every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, the foundation behind the memorial sets up a storytelling event to "help these bronze figures come to life," said Marsha Guenzler-Stevens. The memorial is dedicated to women who served in Vietnam, most of them as nurses.

Aiken, 68, has worked as a nurse at veterans and military hospitals for 47 years. She's cur-

rently a nurse educator at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland.

"I love it, the best decision I ever made in my entire life was to work at the veterans hospital and then the military hospital," Aiken said. "Because this is the truth: Every day you make a difference in somebody's life. Just reaching out, touching somebody; just us talking, it makes a difference." Black, 75, was an infantry officer in Vietnam for two tours. He was injured and evacuated during the second tour in 1972, experiencing the care of military nurses first-hand.

Later, Black became a musician. He wrote a song about the nine women who were killed during the war, "The Women on the Wall."

Meanwhile, when Ralph Burns

stepped into Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Thursday night, he was met by several hundred people waiting to applaud him and the few dozen other veterans he traveled with.

'Touched my heart'

Burns, 72, said it reminded him of a moment decades ago, when he stepped off the plane, finally home from the Vietnam War.

"There was a large crowd waiting there, and then their signs came up and they threw things at us," Burns said.

The reception at BWI "just really touched my heart," he said, pointing toward his chest.

Burns and 42 other veterans

and family members are part of the first-ever all Native American Honor Flight, a nonprofit that brings veterans from other areas of the country to visit the memorials in Washington.

The veterans who made the trip are part of three different tribes — Paiute, Shoshone and Washoe — all in the Great Basin region.

The group spent Friday morning at the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, and they planned to go to the Korean War Memorial and place a wreath at the Vietnam War before ending the day at the National Museum of the American Indian.

The trip to Washington was the first for John Smith, 95. Smith served in the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II. He's also a tribal elder in Schurz, Nev., and usually spends Veterans Day leading the local parade.

"His family wanted him to come," said Truckee Bob Tilton, another veteran on the trip. "He's having trouble, doesn't think he'll get another opportunity."

Burns, part of the Lake Paiute Tribe, lived about 35 miles north of Reno, Nev., said he thought the trip would be healing, for him and other veterans.

In their culture, it's not a good thing to stand out, said Stacey Montooth, a community information officer within the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. She described the group as reserved and humble.

But Burns thought a lot of the veterans there tended to "bottle things up."

"People here are opening up now," he said. "They're healing in a way, by talking about it."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Attack on German consulate in Afghanistan kills 4

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attack on the German consulate in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif has killed at least four civilians and has wounded more than 120 others, Afghan officials said Friday.

"The attacker drove a vehicle full of explosives" into a gate at the consulate, said Abdul Razaq Qaderi, a police official in northern Balkh province, where Mazar-e-Sharif is situated. "It shattered windows 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the scene."

The explosion, which occurred about 11:40 p.m. on Thursday, destroyed parts of the consulate, and nearby homes and shops, Qaderi said.

Germany's Foreign Ministry said all consulate employees were safe and unhurt after Thursday's attack, which Afghan President Ashraf Ghani called a "crime against humanity and all international laws."

The provincial hospital received four dead bodies and 85 wounded people after the explosion, said Dr. Noor Mohammad Faiz, the hospital head. Thirty other wounded people, all civilians, were taken to a private hospital, he said.

Women and children were among the wounded, Faiz said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

"This attack was carried out as a revenge for the bombard-

ment by foreign forces that killed civilians," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement on the group's website.

Mujahid was referring to a joint mission by Afghan and NATO forces earlier this month near the northern city of Kunduz that Afghan officials said had targeted Taliban commanders who were preparing a major offensive on the city.

U.S. airstrikes were used during the operation, which Afghan officials said killed about 30 civilians. U.S. officials said shortly afterward that it was "very likely" the operation caused civilian casualties and that an investigation was underway.

Germany leads NATO's diplomatic mission in northern Afghanistan and has nearly 1,000 troops in the country.

NATO's Resolute Support mission said it had deployed its quick-reaction force to assist German troops at the consulate and to help evacuate all 21 staff members to nearby Camp Marmal.

"This attack by the Taliban once again shows that they use violence indiscriminately and without regard for the safety of civilians," said Lt. Gen. Sandy Storrie, Resolute Support's deputy commander. "We condemn this attack and pledge that we will continue our mission to help the Afghan government and the Afghan people achieve peace, security and stability."

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Iraqi troops inch ahead; UN says chemicals used

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops inched ahead in their battle to retake the northern city of Mosul from the Islamic State group on Friday, as the U.N. revealed fresh evidence that the extremists have used chemical weapons.

Exchanging small arms and mortar fire with Islamic State positions, the special forces entered Mosul's Qadisiya neighborhood, advancing slowly to avoid killing civilians and trying to avoid being surprised by suicide car bombers, said Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil.

Regular army troops control 90 percent of the Intisar neighborhood, said one officer, but progress had slowed because "the streets are too narrow for our tanks." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Iraqi troops are converging from several fronts on Mosul, the second-largest city and the last major Islamic State holdout in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the U.N. human rights office cited new details on Thursday as proof that Islamic State is using chemical weapons, which many fear the extremist group has and is saving for an even more brutal endgame should they be cornered or about to lose the city, still home to more than a million people.

Amid concerns about Islamic State's use of human shields in the city, rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said four people died from inhaling fumes after the Islamic State group shelled and set fires to the al-Mishrag Sulfur Gas Factory in Mosul on Oct. 23.



PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Ryan Hunt of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, pours a drink for Army Spc. Jonathan Santiago of the 1st Squadron of the 75th Cavalry at a celebration of the Marine Corps' 241st birthday on Thursday at Qayara Airfield West, Iraq.

Marines celebrate Corps' birthday while advising Iraqis in Mosul fight

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

QAYARA AIRFIELD WEST, Iraq — The Marine Corps celebrates its birthday every November by passing on hard-won experience in the ceremonial sharing of cake from the oldest Marine to the youngest. It's part of a tradition that recalls past victories and a history of military successes.

For the Marines deployed to Qayara Airfield West outside Mosul, who celebrated the 241st anniversary of the service's founding on Thursday, the tradition also echoed their duties as advisers helping the Iraqi army to expel the Islamic State group from their country.

The setting — a tent around a large table covered with a camouflage poncho — was relatively austere compared with birthday balls held elsewhere in the world.

Lavish, stateside celebrations are more fun, said Maj. Ryan Hunt, leader of the Twentynine Palms, Calif.-based "Blade Runner" team, made up of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Marines, which he said deployed "from a desert to a desert." At home, they often attend birthday balls hosted in Las Vegas.

Members of the Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company out of West Palm Beach, Fla., who are advising the Iraqis in fire support, also were present, together with a Navy Corpsman, three Marine veterans and guests from other services.

Hunt spoke of galas during which Marines can enjoy a real beer instead of the nonalcoholic kind on hand at the Iraqi airfield.

But, he said, a stripped-down affair in a harsh, deployed environment is more memorable because it's closer to what Marines "were made to do."

"The purpose of our being is to deploy," he said.

In his first of four deployed birthdays, as a second lieutenant in 2004, he read Gen. John A. Lejeune's 1921 birthday message



More than a dozen Marines deployed to Qayara Airfield West, most from the "Blade Runner" advise-and-assist team of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, enjoy a special meal of steak, potatoes and broccoli in honor of the Marine Corps' birthday.

to his Marines while taking cover on a rooftop in Fallujah after they had come under fire, he said. He has also celebrated while on ship and while training and advising security forces in Afghanistan.

For the oldest Marine present, Master Sgt. Matthew Holly, 43, of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, the celebration was his third on a combat deployment.

"The message is always the same," he said. "We're paying homage to our past."

After taking a bite of the first slice of birthday carrot cake, Holly passed it to Lance Cpl. D'Armani Parks, 21, the youngest Marine present. It's a symbol of handing down history and tradi-

tions to the future generation of Marine leaders.

"It's good to know who came before you and to celebrate their triumphs," said Parks, who was marking his first deployed birthday celebration.

The advisers here, part of U.S. Central Command's Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, remain miles from the battlefield.

"In this case...our Iraqi brothers are the ones that are taking the fight to the enemy," Hunt said. "With some hopefully good guidance from us."

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MILITARY

Plan for troops in Europe on track

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon is moving ahead with plans to deploy more troops, attack helicopters and artillery to Europe early next year as part of a multibillion-dollar effort to reinforce NATO's defenses along Russia's periphery, the military said on Thursday.

A Fort Carson-based armored brigade is set to rotate to Europe in January as part of an effort to ensure a year-round presence of tanks and additional troops on the Continent. The deployment, part of the \$3.4 billion European Reassurance Initiative, calls for series of other moves aimed at improving the military's ability to respond to a crisis in Europe.

Yet questions have begun to

swirl with the election of Donald Trump as president about whether the United States will remain committed to the plan. The Pentagon played down those concerns Thursday.

The military is "executing the plans as they were constructed with NATO allies in close consultations with NATO, so we're proceeding forward, and we'll leave it to the next administration to speak to their policy choices," Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook told reporters.

Cook declined to speculate about whether the Trump administration would remain committed to reinforcing the military's presence in Europe, which, before Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine, had been on steady decline.

"I'll leave it to the president-

elect and his team to speak to that," Cook said.

During his campaign, Trump sent mixed signals about how the U.S. military should be organized overseas and about America's commitment to the NATO alliance.

He made waves earlier this year when he suggested that the U.S. might not be willing follow through on defending allies if they came under attack, saying that U.S. solidarity was contingent on partners' spending more on their own defense. The comments rattled NATO members, particularly those once dominated by the Soviet Union.

At other times, Trump has said that the U.S. remains committed to NATO but that the alliance needs to adapt to new threats.

The future design of U.S. forces in Europe, as well as the longevity of efforts to circulate more rotational forces around Europe, could depend on how the U.S. relationship with Russia develops under Trump.

Moscow has lashed out at NATO's efforts to increase its presence in places such as the Baltic states and Poland, which view Russia as a threat to their security. Trump has said he hopes to improve relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and that he wants closer cooperation with Moscow in Syria and elsewhere.

Trump has been less specific about how the U.S. military's role in Europe could factor into talks with the Russian leader.

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Gender: Navy details policy for sailors who are transgender

FROM FRONT PAGE

The exceptions he referred to are sailors who sought treatment before the policy was finalized, said a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity because officials were not authorized to speak publicly about details of those seeking treatment. Burke's message accompanied the Navy's new policy for transgender sailors.

"The Navy needs people who are the right fit for the right job regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, or gender identity."

Burke wrote, "The Pentagon's repeal of the ban on transgender troops was announced June 30. Some members of the

Lt. Cdr. Nate Christensen
Navy spokesman

military brass objected, fearing the change was happening too quickly. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not appear with Defense Secretary Ash Carter when the repeal was announced.

Transgender troops are estimated to make up a small fraction of the active-duty force of 1.3 million. A RAND Corp. study found there are as many as 6,630 transgender troops of whom dozens or a few hundred would seek hormone treatment or surgery. The cost was estimated at as much as \$8 million per year. Individual treatment could cost as much as \$50,000.

Transgender sailors must provide to medical personnel that transition is medically necessary before treatment begins, according to guidance issued to commanders. The Navy defined treatment that includes "real-life experience," which could include wearing clothing of the opposite gender during off-duty hours, according to guidance for commanders.

Ultimately, treatment could also consist of hormone treatment and reassignment surgery.

"To remain the finest seagoing fighting force the world has ever known, the Navy needs people who are the right fit for the right job regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, or gender identity," Christensen said. "Our goal is to ensure that the mission is carried out by the best-qualified and the most capable service members. If an individual can meet the Navy's standards, there should be no barrier to opportunity to serve."

Trump: President-elect wants more troops in Iraq

FROM FRONT PAGE

Overall, Trump has shown a focus on fighting Islamic militants and favoring strong men who do so. He's shown less concern with human rights or the complicated minutiae of the Middle East's many factions and interests.

That is a simpler, black-and-white stance in the eyes of some, but it can also bring a backlash.

Islamic State, Iraq, Syria

Trump pledged repeatedly to intensify the war against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, saying crushing the group is his main priority.

What is less clear is how — and what impact it would have on the conflicts in both countries and the complex alliances that the Obama administration has tried to balance. Trump has given little policy or vision on the wars beyond the vows to defeat the Islamic State group.

In Syria, rebels may be the biggest losers.

In contrast to the Obama administration's support for the opposition — an equivocal as it may have been — Trump said the rebels may be "worse" than President Bashar Assad and that defeating the Islamic State group is more important than removing the Syrian leader. That suggests he could drop any backing. Moreover, he says he wants more and better cooperation against the Islamic State group with Russia, Assad's main ally.

Trump says he will step up airstrikes, vowing to "bomb the hell" out of the militants.

He has criticized the slow pace of the fight, and at one point, called for up to 30,000 U.S. troops to be deployed in Iraq — six times the current level. He later seemed to back down, saying "few troops" would be needed.

More intensified bombing, however, risks a backlash if it brings more civilian casualties. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has come under fire from political rivals over the presence of a few thousand U.S. troops in Iraq. The Islamic State group may already be broken in Iraq and cornered in Syria before Trump takes office in January. Over the past year, the Obama administration's campaign of airstrikes, along with training on the ground, has helped Iraqi and Kurdish forces take back most territory. The Islamic State group captured in 2014. They are currently assaulting the group's last main Iraqi stronghold, Mosul.

In Syria, if Trump allies with Russia against the militant group, it could also bring a major shift away from U.S. support of the rebels.

Turning away from the opposition could anger Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which have vowed to oust Assad and back the rebels.



MARNO DRONIAKOVIC/AP

A serviceman exercises at Qayara Airfield West, near Mosul, Iraq. President-elect Donald Trump has called for more U.S. troops to be deployed to Iraq.

Trump will also face the same struggle Obama has: balancing between Turkey and its bitter rival, the Syrian Kurds, who have been the main U.S.-backed ground force fighting the Islamic State group.

Israel and the Palestinians

Trump appears much more sympathetic to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than to the Palestinians. That bodes poorly for the Palestinian dream of gaining independence and has led to some warnings they might turn to a full-fledged violent uprising.

Netanyahu spent the past eight years clashing with Obama over settlement construction and the deadlock in peace efforts. Trump has expressed affinity for Netanyahu and called Obama a "disaster" for the Jewish state.

He has vowed not to impose any solutions on Israel and promised to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, a step that would undercut the Palestinian claims to the eastern part of the city. His opposition to the nuclear deal with Iran and promises to veto anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations resonate in Jerusalem.

In addition, he has surrounded himself with advisers close to Israel's hard-line right wing. Among them are Newt Gingrich; former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani; the former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton; and conservative billionaire Sheldon Adelson, a close friend of Netanyahu's.

The pro-settler politicians who dominate Netanyahu's Cabinet welcomed Trump's win.

Still, the unpredictable Trump also raised some concerns in Israel during the campaign by suggesting he would stay "neutral" and that Israel should repay the billions of dollars of military aid it receives from the U.S.

The Palestinians are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Egypt

Trump and Egypt's el-Sissi have already shown a bond. Trump said there was "good chemistry" when they met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September. El-Sissi said Trump "without a doubt" would make a strong leader.

It's clear where the common ground is. El-Sissi has painted himself as a leader in the fight against Islamic militancy.

The result could be closer ties after the chill between el-Sissi and Obama.

As commander of the military, el-Sissi led the 2013 ouster of Egypt's first freely elected president, Islamist Mohammed Morsi, amid widespread protests against him and his Muslim Brotherhood. The Obama administration voiced some criticism of the ouster and briefly suspended some aid. It has kept its distance ever since, especially as el-Sissi's government has cracked down heavily on its opponents.

Trump is less likely to take Egypt to task over human rights. Instead, he could throw el-Sissi political support as the Egyptian leader battles IS-linked militants in Sinai and Libya.

MILITARY



JOHN R. NIMMO, Sr./Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Lockheed Martin is meeting with members of President-elect Donald Trump's transition team in hopes of assuaging his misgivings about the cost and capabilities of the F-35 Lightning II.

Lockheed Martin talks F-35 with Trump transition team

By Max B. Baker

Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

Aware that Donald Trump voiced misgivings about the capabilities and cost of the F-35 Lightning II, Lockheed Martin is meeting with the president-elect's transition team about the stealth fighter and other programs, a top company official said.

Trump made it clear on a conservative radio talk show last year that he had doubts about the F-35's performance and its cost. At \$379 billion, the F-35, which is built at Lockheed's plant in Fort Worth, is the country's most costly weapons program.

After suffering through a rough start, the F-35 program has been showing improvement in recent years. The cost of the jet fighter has fallen to \$112 million a copy and Lockheed hopes to get it down to \$80 million to \$85 million. But last week, the Pentagon said it will need \$500 million more to finish the development phase.

We believe that in working with his transition team all the right information will get communicated and they'll make the right decisions, Orlando Carvalho, Lockheed executive vice president for aeronautics

"When they say that [the F-35] cannot perform as well as the

planes we already have, what are [we] doing, and spending so much more money?" Trump said on the Hugh Hewitt radio show.

The host asked Trump his thoughts on the fifth-generation fighter and the fact that it's over budget. At the time, Trump responded that he didn't like what he had been hearing in security briefings.

"I do hear that it's not very good," he said. "I'm hearing that our existing planes are better. And one of the pilots came out to the plane, one of the test pilots, and said this isn't as good as what we already have."

Trump was reacting to a blog report that has since been discredited, in which a test pilot found that the "priced new stealth jet can't turn or climb fast enough to hit an enemy plane during a dogfight."

Carvalho declined to comment on the incoming president's knowledge about the F-35 in an interview Thursday after appearing in the Tandy Executive Speaker Series at Texas Christian University. During his presentation, he talked about the F-35's technological marvels.

He also said Lockheed's conversations with Trump's transition team are like those they have with any new administration.

"As we've done in every previous election, you work with the new administration, you work with the transition team as they develop their plans," Carvalho said. "We're engaged in that and I think that will help us as we go forward."

Besides dealing with a new administration, Lockheed also is involved in a dogfight with the Pentagon over the price of the F-35.

Last week the Pentagon said it was going to pay \$6.1 billion for the next 57 copies of the F-35 without Lockheed's acceptance. After more than a year of negotiations, the government said it was setting the price under a provision that allows it to do so before contract details are worked out.

One of the stumbling points was the profits, or "fees," being charged by Lockheed. Hopefully, the two sides can reach an agreement before the next order, or lot, of airplanes is approved, he said.

"We were disappointed. Ideally you mutually negotiate contracts, you ultimately have bilateral agreement, when it's awarded," Carvalho said. "We're working with program office ... to see how we can resolve the issues that remain open. It is important to get those issues resolved."

Six West Point cadets facing drug charges

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Six West Point cadets are facing charges they conspired to distribute drugs, the U.S. Military Academy said Friday.

One member of the Class of 2016 and five members of the Class of 2017 were "similarly charged" under military law with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and wrongful use, introduction and distribution of controlled substances, according to the academy.

West Point officials did not

say what drug or drugs were involved or provide details about the charges.

But Greg Rinckey, a lawyer with expertise in military law who is not involved in this case, said the charges are "very serious" and seem to point to a conspiracy to bring drugs onto a military installation.

Evidence collected during a pretrial investigation will be provided to a senior military officer who could dispose of the cadets' case or recommend trial by court-martial to the superintendent.

A West Point spokesman said Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen could not comment because of his involvement in the process.

The cadets, who are on administrative leave, are Joshua Bobo, Jaalen Gadsen, Tevin Long, Christopher Monge and Jalen Swett, who are all seniors, along with Jared Rogers, who is in the Class of 2016.

West Point and the Army did not provide names of their lawyers. Efforts to reach the cadets were not immediately successful.

CIA director: Briefings will show challenges

By MARY HUDETZ
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The nation's CIA director said Thursday that he believes Donald Trump's national security briefings will show the president-elect that defeating the Islamic State and tackling other security threats across the globe are challenges that the United States must address with its allies and partners.

CIA Director John Brennan said the briefings also will bring greater clarity for Trump and his team on the reasons behind the United States' commitments to its allies and the arrangements that go with them. Brennan expressed confidence in a smooth transition between presidential administrations, vowing his agency would provide Trump's team with the best intelligence possible.

"It's very important that we follow through on our treaty obligations and continue to reassure our allies that America's commitment to them and their security and to the relationships we have with them is going to stay strong," Brennan said. "I'm sure when President-elect Trump is briefed on a lot of these issues,

there's going to be greater clarity on why we do certain things and why we have certain kinds of arrangements."

Brennan's comments Thursday came as he took questions from University of New Mexico students in Albuquerque, where he announced a CIA recruiting partnership with the school called the Signature School Program. Brennan said the University of New Mexico is the first of several schools that will be part of the program.

Several university students asked about Trump's campaign rhetoric, which included suggestions that the U.S. could abandon its NATO commitments and boost security by building a wall along the U.S. Mexico border.

Natalie Avitia, a sophomore from Grants, N.M., asked whether Brennan believed Trump's proposal for the border wall was a viable long-term security plan.

"We'll see whether or not there's going to be follow through on a policy front," Brennan said. "Just as I said there are no simple solutions, whether it be with ISIL or whatever. Some of these issues we face are not easily solved by a wall or mass deportations."

Sitka officials vote to oppose Navy exercises

Associated Press

SITKA, Alaska — Officials in the city of Sitka have approved a non-binding resolution asking the U.S. Navy move its offshore training exercises in the Gulf of Alaska in an attempt to protect marine life.

The Sitka Assembly voted 6-1 Tuesday in favor of the resolution requesting the move farther offshore for the training location and for the Navy activities to be rescheduled for fall or winter, The Sitka Sentinel reported.

"Hazardous materials and underwater noise from military exercises could harm marine life and habitat, and the training will take place when many fish populations are migrating and spawning," the resolution said.

"The training area and vicinity is a highly productive region for many marine fish and shellfish populations and supports some of the most productive fisheries in the United States, and an important spawning area for many fishes," the resolution added.

The exercises called "North-

ern Edge" are scheduled for May. Past exercises have been conducted in the winter.

"This is pretty critical, since a third of our economy is based on 'blue' jobs," Assemblyman Bob Portzucski said, referring to time-based businesses. "I think we should do everything we can to support that."

Steven Eisenbeisz voted against the resolution, saying there was not enough information available to conclude whether the training activities actually harm marine life.

"We're being asked to vote on the speculation it could harm (them) in the future," he said.

The resolution draft was given to the assembly by the Eyak Preservation Council of Cordova.

The council's program director, Emily Stolarczyk, said similar measures have been approved in Cordova, Kodiak, Valdez, Homer and by tribal organizations in several communities.

She encouraged those who attended Tuesday's meeting to read the Navy's environmental impact statement.

NATION

Trump protesters again take to the streets

BY TERRENCE PETTY
AND ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — From New York to Illinois to California, in red states and blue, protesters decrying Donald Trump's election spent another night overtaking highways, smashing store windows, igniting fires and in at least one city, facing pepper spray and rubber projectiles from police trying to clear the streets.

The demonstrations stretched into another straight night Thursday and came to a head in Portland, Ore., where thousands of marchers chanted, "We reject the president-elect!" while some lit firecrackers, sparked small blazes and used rocks and baseball bats to break the glass of businesses and vehicles parked at dealerships.

Officers began pushing back against the crowd that threw glass bottles and a trash can, making 26 arrests and using flash-bang devices and pepper spray to force people to disperse.

In Los Angeles, protests were mostly peaceful, but 185 people were arrested, mostly for blocking streets, Officer Norma Eisenman said. An officer was injured near police headquarters, leading to one arrest, but Eisenman had no details about the circumstances or the injury. The officer was released after treatment.

The persisting protests led Trump himself to fire back, tweeting: "Just had a very open and successful presidential election. Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!"

His supporters also took to social media to accuse protesters of sour grapes and refusing to respect the democratic process, though there were no significant counterprotests.

In Portland, police termed the protest a riot after some 4,000 people surged into the downtown area. After giving several orders to leave, officers fired rubber baton rounds. It was not clear if anyone was hurt.

In Denver, protesters made their way onto Interstate 25, stopping traffic for about a half-hour. They also briefly shut down highways in Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

In downtown San Francisco, high school students called out, "Not my president!" as they

marched, holding signs urging a Trump eviction. They waved rainbow banners and Mexican flags, as bystanders in the heavily Democratic city gave them high-fives.

"As a white, queer person, we need unity with people of color, we need to stand up," said Claire Bye, 15, a sophomore at Academy High School. "I'm fighting for my rights as an LGBTQ person. I'm fighting for the rights of brown people, black people, Muslim people."

Nearby in Oakland, a group got into some shoving matches with police, and 11 people were arrested. Protesters lit street fires, smashed windows and sprayed graffiti on at least seven businesses.

In New York City and Chicago, large groups gathered outside Trump Tower. In New York, they chanted angry slogans and waved banners bearing anti-Trump messages. Police still stood guard Friday on Fifth Avenue.

"You got everything straight up and down the line," demonstrator David Thomas said. "You got climate change, you got the Iran deal. You got gay rights, you got mass deportations. Just everything, straight up and down the line, the guy is wrong on every issue."

In Philadelphia, protesters near city hall held signs saying, "Not Our President," "Trans Against Trump" and "Make America Safe for All." Officers on bikes blocked traffic for a march that spanned four street lanes and drew parents with children in strollers.

Jeanine Feito, 23, held a sign reading, "Not 1 more deportation." The Temple University student said she acknowledges Trump as president-elect but does not accept it. "I'm Cuban-American. My parents are immigrants, and I'm also a woman. These are things Trump doesn't stand for," Feito said. "He's bullied us, discriminated against us, is racist and encourages violence. I think it's important we stand together and fight against this."

About 600 people turned out at a protest in Louisville, Ky., while hundreds in Baltimore marched to the stadium where the Ravens were playing a football game. Police announced in a statement Friday that they detained two men and one woman Thursday night during the protest.

the party in power."

Professor Allan Lichtman uses a historically based system of what he calls "keys" to predict election results ahead of time. In our conversations in September and October, he outlined how President Barack Obama's second term set the Democrats up for a tight race, and his keys tipped the balance in Trump's favor, even if just barely.

At the end of our September conversation, Lichtman made another call: That if elected, Trump would eventually be im-

peached by a Republican Congress that would prefer a President Mike Pence — someone who establishment Republicans know and trust.

"I'm going to make another prediction," he said. "This one is not based on a system, it's just my gut. They don't want Trump as president because they can't control him. He's unpredictable. They'd love to have Pence — an absolutely down-the-line conservative, controllable Republican. And I'm quite certain Trump will give someone grounds for impeachment, either by doing

something that endangers national security or because it helps his pocketbook."

So while Republican voters clearly came home before Nov. 8 — network exit polls show 90 percent of GOP voters cast ballots for Trump — it's less clear that the party leadership is onboard. (Lichtman actually isn't the only person to predict a Trump impeachment; Friday morning, The New York Times' David Brooks suggested a Trump impeachment or resignation was "probably" in the cards sometime within the next year.



JAY JANNER, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Arielle Moore, 19, argues with a Donald Trump supporter during a protest at Texas State University in San Marcos on Thursday expressing opposition to Trump's presidential election victory.



JIM RYAN, THE (PORTLAND) OREGONIAN/AP

Above: Protesters march on their way to Waterfront Park in Portland, Ore., on the third day of protests over the results of the election. Right: Protesters make their way to M&T Bank Stadium during the Baltimore Ravens vs. Cleveland Browns football game on Thursday in Baltimore.



LOYD FOX, THE BALTIMORE SUN/AP

'Prediction professor' believes Trump will be impeached

BY PETER W. STEVENSON
The Washington Post

Few prognosticators predicted a Donald Trump victory ahead of Tuesday night. Polls showed Hillary Clinton comfortably ahead, and much of America (chiefly the media) failed to anticipate the wave of pro-Trump support that propelled him to victory. But a Washington-based professor insists that Trump was lined up for a win — based on the idea that elections are "primarily a reflection on the performance of

NATION

Trump, GOP Congress face tough reality beyond smiles

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The budding new alliance between Donald Trump and congressional Republicans hides a tougher reality: Even with unified GOP control of Washington, the president-elect's priorities may have trouble getting through Congress.

And in some cases, Republicans, themselves, might be the barrier.

Building a border wall and restricting immigration from terror-stricken nations? Don't count on Senate Democrats to go along, and they effectively will wield veto power in many cases.

Repealing President Barack Obama's health care law? That looks likely to happen in some way, shape or form, but a number of states that accepted that law's expansion of the Medicaid health program for the poor are represented by Republicans. It will take painstaking and potentially

lengthy negotiations to come up with a solution.

And then there are Trump's protectionist views on trade, skepticism about international treaty organizations and promises to protect Social Security and Medicare. All that flies in the face of Republican Party orthodoxy—and the list goes on.

Still, all that seemed like a problem for another day as Trump paid a triumphant visit to Capitol Hill on Thursday after a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama.

He sat down with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., whom he derided as "very weak and ineffective" just last month after Ryan distanced himself over audio of Trump talking about groping women. Ryan was all smiles as he escorted Trump, wife Melania and Vice President-elect Mike Pence onto the Capitol Balcony to give them a view of the inauguration platform being constructed

for Trump to take the oath of office Jan. 20.

From there, Trump strolled through the Capitol's statey Ohio Clock Corridor with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who'd been quick to endorse him but critical of his rhetoric and undisciplined campaign style. But it was McConnell's strategy of refusing to act after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February that now hands Trump a Supreme Court vacancy to fill.

And on Thursday, there was no sign of strain. The normally reserved McConnell even seemed to adopt Trump's hyperbolic rhetorical style, declaring their encounter "a first-class meeting."

Ryan, for his part, picked up Trump's campaign slogan, telling reporters: "We are now talking about how to hit the ground running, and make sure we get this country turned around, and make America great again."

As he left the Capitol, Trump



MOLLY RILEY/AP

President-elect Donald Trump, flanked by wife Melania and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., gives a thumbs-up Thursday on Capitol Hill in Washington after their meeting.

was asked about his legislative priorities.

"A lot of really great priorities. People will be very, very happy," he said. "We're going to move very strongly on immigration. We will move very strongly on health care. And we're looking at jobs. Big-league jobs."

As for specifics, there were none. But Trump's ability to deliver on his extravagant campaign promises to change Washington and to rebuild the nation will require passing laws, a tedious process not built for instant gratification.

He will be able to take some steps through unilateral, executive

actions, a method Republicans repeatedly accused Obama of overusing. But big-ticket items like tax cuts and infrastructure spending, and most major policy changes on immigration, health care, energy or trade, would require Congress' say-so. And although Republicans control the House, they will have only 52 seats in the 100-member Senate next year, well short of the 60 votes needed to advance most legislation.

"Many of his proposals would face a certain filibuster in the Senate," predicted Jim Manley, a Democratic consultant and former top Senate aide.

Deportation fears grip immigrants after Trump's election

By ASTRID GALVAN AND AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

PHOENIX — President-elect Donald Trump launched his candidacy on an anti-immigrant sentiment and has vowed to repeal a key Obama administration program that shields hundreds of thousands of people from deportation.

Now, many immigrants in the country illegally, or with relatives who are, fear deportation and separation from their families.

In immigrant-heavy areas like Los Angeles and Phoenix, activists are scrambling to provide informational meetings for immigrants to help them protect themselves from deportation. Others want legal immigrants to apply for citizenship so they eventually can obtain legal status for relatives.

"The more we can naturalize people and stabilize our families and root our communities, the better," said Julio Perez, executive director of California's Orange County Labor Federation, which is sponsoring naturalization events in response to the election.

Here are stories from some immigrants who fear what a Trump presidency could bring:

■ **Working now but fearing deportation:** Karina Ruiz, 32, is one of 741,000 immigrants benefiting from the program launched by President Barack Obama called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

It allows young adults to get work permits and Social Security numbers and protects them from deportation.

The Phoenix mother of three said deportation allowed her to work and graduate with a biochemistry degree from Arizona State University in 2015. She hopes to be a pharmacist one day.

But Trump has promised to end deferred action, and Ruiz fears she could be sent to Mexico and separated from her U.S.-born children.

"I'm not giving up DACA so easily, not going down without a fight," Ruiz said.



AMY TAXIN/AP

Alia Ramirez, 67, hands out fliers Wednesday to passersby on a busy street in a largely Latino area in Santa Ana, Calif. She said she's afraid of what a Trump victory will mean for immigrants like her who lack legal papers.

■ **Worried parents will be sent to Mexico:** Michael Nazario, 27, a community activist from Phoenix, is shielded by deferred action and is married to an American citizen, which should allow him to get permanent residency soon.

He came to the U.S. with his parents illegally when he was 3 and didn't find out about his legal status until he tried to enlist in the Marine Corps and he could not do so without a Social Security card.

All four of Nazario's siblings were born in the U.S., and his parents probably would have been eligible to stay under an expansion of Obama's program called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans. But the program was challenged in court and never went into effect. Trump also opposes it.

Nazario said a grass-roots effort to make sure the program stays in place is now necessary to ensure his parents can stay in Phoenix.

"I feel bothered by this election, but it only inspires me to just keep going forward

because what's at stake is not only my deferred action, but my family as well, my father, my mother and the 11 million immigrants all across the country," Nazario said.

■ **Aspiring lawyer fears deportation to South Korea:** Matt Lee's parents brought him on a tourist visa to Southern California from South Korea when he was 13. Now 25, he has a college biology degree and wants to attend law school so he can become a patent lawyer.

He was among the first to apply for the deferred-action program and now works legally, helping other South Koreans fill out immigration forms.

But his dreams of becoming a lawyer are clouded by Trump's vow to get rid of the program.

Other young immigrants have told him they fear they will be tracked down for deportation because the federal government has their names and addresses, courtesy of their deferred-action applications. One

mother said she is pulling her daughter out of a study-abroad program in China to get the daughter back into the U.S. before Trump takes office, Lee said.

"People are not sure if Trump will definitely carry out what he said because it is a crazy idea," he said. "Now the crazy idea of him being elected — that happened. Nothing is certain."

■ **No green card without a return to Mexico:** Dora Rodriguez has lived in the U.S. illegally for 27 years but has still managed to raise her two U.S.-born children and to work at a money transfer business in Santa Ana, Calif. More than 75 percent of the city's residents are Latino, and nearly half of them were born abroad.

Rodriguez said her daughter is now an adult, and could sponsor Rodriguez for permanent residency.

But Rodriguez, in her 40s, would have to return to Mexico to apply and risk staying there for years to get her papers, leaving behind her teenage son in the U.S.

She remembers anti-immigration sentiment in the 1990s in California but that didn't get her deported. She said she is scared much would end up changing under a Trump presidency.

"When (former California Gov.) Pete Wilson was here, I heard the same ... and nothing happened," she said.

■ **Avoiding police to avoid deportation:** Alia Ramirez, in the U.S. for three decades, doesn't think Trump will be able to target immigrants like her but says she's going to start taking extra precautions soon to make sure she can stay in Santa Ana.

Ramirez, who is in the country illegally and hands out restaurant fliers on a street lined with restaurants, vendors, and tamales vendors, said avoiding run-ins with law enforcement officers will be key.

"That's more challenging for her and others handing out fliers on the streets than the immigrants working inside offices lining the strip."

"We're afraid," Ramirez said of Trump. "We've got to be careful because the smallest mistake, he's going to kick us out."

NATION

Multiple fires in Southeast probed as suspected arson

By JEFF MARTIN
Associated Press

ATLANTA — At least 20 wild fires in North Carolina are being investigated as suspected arson, officials said, as firefighters from across the country focused on a pocket of fires in the bone-dry southern Appalachian mountains.

A division of the U.S. Forest Service said fires have been burning on more than 25 square miles in the Nantahala National Forest in the western part of North Carolina. Across the South, relentless drought has turned pine trees into matchsticks and has forced people from their homes in dozens of communities.

More than 5,000 firefighters

and support staff from around the nation are trying to suppress these fires, said Shardul Raval, director of fire and aviation management for the southern region of the U.S. Forest Service.

The effort includes about 40 aircraft, including three large air tankers flying out of Chattanooga, Tenn. Tens of thousands of acres of forest have burned, and about a dozen of the largest fires were uncontained, the forest service said.

High winds, high temperatures and weeks without rain have combined to spark blaze after blaze in the unusually dry landscape. Numerous teams reported wind-driven fires racing up slopes and down ravines as they struggled to protect hundreds of threatened

structures.

"It just smells like a campfire" along the Appalachian Trail in northern Georgia, said Charlie Gentry, who works at the Mountain Crossings store at Walasi-yi, a popular stop for hikers.

The national drought report shows 41.6 million people in parts of 15 southern states living in drought conditions. The worst is in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, but extreme drought also is spreading into the western Carolinas. Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina all have fierce fires.

"Right now, we're kind of holding our own," said Jennifer Turner, a spokeswoman for Kentucky's Division of Forestry. "We've been



TIM BARBER, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

Volunteer firefighter Sheri Torbett, with the Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department, uses a leaf blower to turn back approaching flames near the Mowbray Volunteer Fire Hall in Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.

able to get control over some of the smaller fires."

But with humidity so low in the normally lush Appalachians and Great Smoky Mountains, authorities are bracing for more. North Carolina's Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency for a fourth of his state's 100 counties,

to help with evacuations and to provide more firefighting assets.

Kentucky authorities made two arson arrests and cited another man for causing a brush fire by defying a burn ban.

Tennessee authorities also reported arrests for arson and burning violations.

Trump train may have left GOP NC governor behind

By GARY D. ROBERTSON
AND JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Trump train that carried Republicans to victory all over the South may have left one car behind in North Carolina — Gov. Pat McCrory, who trailed by a few thousand votes Thursday in a still-too-close-to-call race that played out amid anger over the state's transgender bathroom law.

The law limiting LGBT rights appeared to have a substantial role in the Election Day contest between McCrory, who signed the measure and vigorously defended it against boycotts and other protests, and Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper, who called for its repeal.

McCrory, who in 2012 won the governorship by 500,000 votes in a blowout the same year President Barack Obama was re-elected, was losing by 5,000 votes out of nearly 4.7 million cast. In 2012, McCrory received 170,000 more votes than Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. This time, he trailed Donald Trump by 63,000 votes.

McCrory still could win. There are tens of thousands of provisional ballots that have to be examined to determine whether they are valid and can be added to the vote tallies. Counties don't have to submit their final results until Nov. 18.

North Carolina debated, passed and signed the bathroom bill in a one-day special session in March. The measure, known as House Bill 2, requires transgender people to use restrooms in schools

and government buildings that correspond to the genders on their birth certificates.

The law also leaves out gay and transgender people from state anti-discrimination protection, and it disallows local measures that offer protection.

The national backlash began immediately. Charlotte lost the NBA All-Star game. The NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference pulled basketball tournament games out of North Carolina, a punishing blow in a state where college basketball is practically religion. Bruce Springsteen and other stars canceled concerts. Businesses like PayPal stopped expansions or moves.

Even some of McCrory's supporters were bothered — not necessarily by the law itself but by the costly and embarrassing spectacle that resulted.

"The bathroom thing was ludicrous. It took away from a lot of the good he did, like bringing jobs back," said John Muter, 54, who still voted for McCrory.

As expected, the bathroom law hurt McCrory in the state's booming and diverse urban areas, such as Charlotte and the Raleigh-Durham region, with their large banking and technology sectors. Unofficial results Tuesday showed that even in many of the rural areas that he won, McCrory didn't match Trump's vote totals.

Gay rights organizations welcomed the outcome.

"There's no question the voters have spoken and resoundingly rejected the hate that is HB 2," said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign.



MIKE HOUSEHOLDER/AP

From left, Lucas, Lauren, Lindsey, Leith and Logan Curtis stand in the lobby of a McDonald's in Portville, Mich., in October. The 18-year-old quintuplets all work at the Lansing-area restaurant.

Mich. quintuplets work at same McDonald's

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

POTTERVILLE, Mich. — Nearly everywhere you look inside one Michigan McDonald's, there's an 18-year-old Curtis.

Leith, Logan and Lucas Curtis work in the kitchen; Lauren Curtis is responsible for the front counter; and Lindsey Curtis handles the lobby and dining area of the restaurant where the quintuplets work in Portville. Their mother calls the arrangement "McCurtis."

It started about a year ago when boss Renee Draves asked Lucas Curtis a question she often poses to her younger workers: Did he and his co-worker/sister have any siblings looking for a job? She was floored by Lucas' answer.

"She wondered if we had any other siblings and, funny enough, we did," Lucas said, smiling.

Lucas is the youngest of the quintuplets, born three minutes after older brother Leith. Lucas and sister Lauren started working at the McDonald's last fall, and their three siblings followed suit earlier this year.

Yet few customers are aware that the nonidentical fivesome, who make up 11 percent of their senior class at Portville High School, are related. They represent about half the restaurant's staff on a typical Sunday, but only recently has word spread about their unique relationship.

"Up until this point, nobody knew," said their father, Leith Curtis, a police officer in nearby

Lansing who himself is a twin.

Lucas noted that he and his siblings get along well, so working together has been easy.

Draves, who owns four McDonald's restaurants in the area, said she couldn't be happier.

"Being a quintuplet, they know teamwork probably better than anyone else," she said. "To have quintuplets working collectively, all at the same time, I would go out on a limb and say we are the only McDonald's that's ever had quintuplets."

Plus, Draves noted, she has a mathematical advantage.

"If I have a shift that I need covered, I can call their house, and it's a one-in-five shot that I'm going to get one of them in," she said.

WORLD

Bahrain opposition leader fears 'whitewash'

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Britain's Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, began wrapping up their trip to Bahrain on Friday, as a leader of the island's secular opposition warned their visit could "whitewash" an ongoing crackdown on dissent.

"The government may listen," he told The Associated Press. "They need friends."

Bahrain, a small island off the coast

of the Arabian Peninsula, put down Arab Spring protests in 2011 with the help of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The protests were backed by the Shiite majority and others, and were aimed at demanding more political freedoms from the ruling Al Khalifa family.

While low-level unrest persisted for years, things remained largely peaceful until April, when Bahrain's military announced it was "ready to deal firmly and with determination with these sedition groups and their heads" after a gasoline bomb killed a police officer.

Since then, authorities suspended the country's largest Shiite opposition group, Al-Wefaq, and doubled a prison sentence for its Secretary-General, Sheikh Ali Salman. Famed

activist Nabeel Rajab was imprisoned and now awaits sentencing on a charge of spreading "false news." Zainab al-Khawaja, the daughter of well-known activist Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, who himself is serving a life sentence over his role in the 2011 protests, was forced into exile.

Meanwhile, the country's security forces have besieged the small-town home of a Shiite cleric who had his citizenship stripped by the government earlier this year.

On their visit, Prince Charles and Camilla have been kept far away from the island's trouble areas. However, they visited the British Embassy on Thursday night, where black Shiite flags were visible as those inside enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres.



JON GAMBRELL/AP

Britain's Prince Charles talks with Bahrain's Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during a Remembrance Day ceremony Friday in Manama, Bahrain.

Chinese e-shoppers spend heavily on Singles Day

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING — In a bright spot for China's cooling economy, online shoppers spent billions of dollars Friday on "Singles Day," a quirky holiday that has grown into the world's busiest day for e-commerce.

The country's biggest e-commerce brand, Alibaba Group, said sales by the thousands of retailers on its platforms passed \$13.4 billion in the first 15 hours of the event. That is four times the \$3 billion that research firm comScore said Americans spent in total last year on Cyber Monday, the country's biggest online shopping day.

Rivals including JD.com, VIP.com and Suning offered deep discounts on clothing, smartphones, travel packages and other goods to attract shoppers.

JD.com, the country's biggest online direct retailer and Alibaba's top rival, said it tested delivery by drone to customers in four rural areas in what the company believed to be the first commercial use of such service. The company said its sales passed last year's Singles Day total at 1:33 p.m. but gave no financial amount.

Singles Day was begun by Chinese college students in the 1990s as a version of Valentine's Day for people without romantic partners.

The Nov. 11 date was picked to be "11.11" — four singles. Young people would treat each other to dinner or give gifts to woo that special someone to end their single status.

The spending gives a boost to the ruling Communist Party's efforts to nurture consumer-based economic growth and to reduce reliance on trade and investment.

E-commerce sales in China rose by 26.1 percent in the first nine months of the year. Economic growth for that period held steady at 6.7 percent, but that was its lowest level since the 2008 global crisis.

Forecasters expect the economy to cool further next year as regulators try to rein in a boom in bank lending and real estate sales that is pushing up debt levels and housing costs.

China has the biggest population of Internet users at 710 million, according to government data. Some 410 million people shop online for goods ranging from clothing and groceries to manicures and plane tickets.



MARK RALSTON/AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stands Friday inside the historic Shackleton hut near McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Kerry becomes most senior US official to visit Antarctica

Associated Press

MCUMURDO STATION, Antarctica — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry became the highest-ranking American official to visit Antarctica on Friday, when he landed for a two-day trip during which he'll hear from scientists about the impact of climate change on the frozen continent.

Kerry left New Zealand after being held up for about a day by bad weather. He and his entourage left the Christchurch airport at 6 a.m. aboard a C-17 Globemaster military cargo plane and landed in Antarctica at about 11 a.m.

Kerry, an experienced pilot, spent much of the flight in the cockpit of the huge jet, chatting with the pilots. After a smooth

trip of about five hours, the group landed on the Pegasus Ice Runway, the strip of ice that serves McMurdo. The large base is the hub for U.S. operations.

Kerry made no public remarks on the initial leg of the trip. In Christchurch a day earlier, he congratulated President-elect Donald Trump on winning a "momentous election" and said he had reminded State Department staff of the "time-honored tradition of a very peaceful and constructive transfer of power."

In Antarctica, Kerry's plans called for his entourage to transfer immediately at the airstrip to a smaller military transport plane for a three-hour flight to the research station the U.S. government operates near the South Pole. Kerry planned to visit that

station for about two hours before returning to McMurdo for the night.

Kerry's aides described the trip as a learning opportunity for the secretary of state. He planned to receive briefings from scientists working to understand the effects of climate change on Antarctica. Kerry has made climate change an intensive focus of American diplomacy during his term and previously had spent decades working on the issue as a U.S. senator.

He planned to return to New Zealand on Saturday for meetings with Prime Minister John Key. He plans to fly next week to the Middle East for talks and then onward to a global climate conference in Morocco, where he will give a major speech.



ANDY WONG/AP

A woman walks past delivery workers sorting parcels for their customers near office buildings Friday in Beijing.

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OPINION

Congress needs to help the VA

By ROBERT McDONALD
Tribune News Service

In the more than two years I have been secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I have come to appreciate how much the VA means to this nation and its veterans.

The VA is there for veterans when they need health care. The VA is there to help them achieve their educational goals and to purchase their home. And the VA is there to honor their service in eternity at one of our national cemeteries.

We launched the MVA transformation effort two years ago to improve veterans' experiences at the VA. Earlier this week, we released the third iteration of our transformation update, which you can read more about on the department's website. While transformation of this magnitude takes years, we have made measurable progress and gained solid momentum. In fact, veterans are telling us they're feeling the difference. The VA is acting differently, too, as we build a more integrated enterprise and high-performing organization.

MyVA changed our perspective. That's not just rhetoric. Now we design and evaluate all of our programs through the eyes of veterans — the very people we are meant to serve. It's the veteran-centric approach. We brought in new leaders, created a Veterans Experience Office and added several feedback mechanisms to hear directly from veterans and their families.

We have focused on rebuilding trust, improving access and the quality of care to our veterans, and answering the phone

quickly and consistently. The results have been dramatic, and 60 percent of veterans surveyed in September trust the VA to fulfill our country's commitment to them, an increase of 13 points from December 2015. These metrics are encouraging, but we still have much more room for improvement.

The VA has spent the last year focusing on things that make real changes in the lives of veterans. We are rolling out same-day access to our medical centers nationwide so veterans can get care when they need it. We added a second Veterans Crisis Line hub in Atlanta to double our capacity to help veterans in need, so by the end of the year we won't need to rely on backup call centers. Veterans can enroll for their VA health care more easily now, completely online at vets.gov, without having to print out and mail a form or go to their local hospital. We have reduced the backlog of disability claims by more than 90 percent and fixed technical problems at our benefits call centers to reduce our dropped-call rate from near 50 percent to near zero.

We focused on these changes because they were the places that would make the most impact for veterans with the taxpayers' resources, and while we've previously heard more to do, there are other high-impact projects that we can't do alone. That's why we're taking fullest advantage of partnerships across industries to help us serve veterans in new and better ways, partnering with external organizations at an unprecedented rate, including Google, the YMCA and Bricks-4-Boys.

But more needs to be done, and we need Congress to do its part. Throughout the past

year, I have sent the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees detailed letters outlining urgent legislative actions needed to support and sustain the transformation. These include common-sense changes like consolidating the VA's care in community programs to make it easier for veterans to be seen by outside providers, and by authorizing 24 major medical leases that have already been funded to open VA sites of care closer to where veterans live, to name just two.

Only Congress can fix these problems, just as only Congress can modernize our antiquated claims appeals process. We have submitted to Congress a modernization plan developed with the help of veterans service organizations that doesn't cost the taxpayers another cent but reduces the waiting period for veterans and their families by years. These are important issues that we have heard from veterans and their families, which is why we are working to address them, but these improvements are moot without changes in law from Congress.

This is a large organization, and while some may say that is why we are imperfect, I challenge the next administration to look beyond the headlines to our true potential and accomplishments. We have a dedicated workforce that has the scope and scale to make a difference in veterans' lives in ways no one else can, and I, a veteran myself, wake up every day ready to leverage that opportunity. Our customers and the American taxpayers deserve nothing less. Happy Veterans Day.

Robert McDonald is the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The importance of helping vets land federal jobs

By BETH COBERT
Special to Stars and Stripes

This Veterans Day, as we honor and express our gratitude to the men and women who so valiantly served our nation in uniform, I want us to take a moment and think about the battle so many of our returning heroes face — how to make the transition to the next chapter of their lives.

I'm thinking about veterans like Christopher, who after being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan during his decade of service in the Air Force, returned from job to job, doing work that did not satisfy him.

Or Georgia, a disabled combat veteran whose work at a water purification and distribution specialist during Desert Shield/Desert Storm did not, she said, translate very well in the civilian sector.

Or Julien, a Purple Heart recipient who was a field radio operator in the Marine Corps. When he left the military, his challenge was to balance going to school full time and working full time.

Veterans like these were seen by President Barack Obama's mind when he issued Executive Order 13518 to honor our obligations to our nation's returning servicemembers and establish a federal employment initiative to encourage more veterans to join the federal service.

A look at the numbers shows we're delivering on his objective. When the president issued his order on Nov. 9, 2009, the percentage of federal jobs held by veterans in the federal government was 24 percent. At the end of fiscal 2015, that percentage was 32.5 percent. Since fiscal 2009, the federal government has hired more than half a million veterans in 24 different agencies.

But the numbers don't begin to tell the whole story or speak to why the president and I believe it's critical for the government to recruit talented, qualified and dedicated

Not only is hiring veterans the right thing to do, it makes good business sense. The skills, leadership and discipline veterans bring to federal workplaces across the nation are essential to our ability to meet our mission to serve the American people.

veterans for the federal workforce. Not only is hiring veterans the right thing to do, it makes good business sense. The skills, leadership and discipline veterans bring to federal workplaces across the nation are essential to our ability to meet our mission to serve the American people. Our collective challenge was and remains — to understand and capitalize on the strengths that these veterans can bring to federal service and to help connect them with agencies across the government that need these skills.

Each year, the federal government spends millions of dollars training service members like Christopher, Georgia and Julien to meet many and varied challenges. When servicemembers are ready to transition to civilian life, we can maximize our investments in their training by encouraging them to continue serving their country as civilian federal employees.

As part of the president's veterans initiative, we created the one-stop website for federal employment — FedsHireVets.gov

— where veterans and their families can get information and resources to help them find employment opportunities. Veteran Employment Program offices are in place in 24 agencies, and the website provides information on how veterans can connect with these offices to learn about career opportunities and about how to navigate the federal employment process.

The executive order also established the President's Council on Veterans Employment, which has tackled such issues as helping agencies find ways to retain the talented veterans they hire. The council also looked at ways to encourage employers to help veterans to join the federal service.

But the real success stories come from veterans themselves.

After trying out different jobs, Christopher became a volunteer, then an intern with the National Park Service. He says he is now "living my dream" as a park ranger in Carlsbad Caverns National Park in California.

Georgia now works for the Bureau of Land Management as an outdoor recreation planner and says the best part of her job is that she knows that what she does "makes a difference."

Julien now has a bachelor's of science in business administration, is working at the Department of Labor and says: "I could not be more thrilled about the next stage of my career in the federal government."

Even as we celebrate this progress and the success stories of these talented veterans and their new roles, we continue to help more veterans and helping agencies recruit, train and retain these talented employees.

And on this Veterans Day, I want to thank the women and men who made the choice to serve their fellow Americans — first in uniform and now as part of the 2-million-strong federal workforce.

Beth Cobert is acting director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

OPINION

A ruinous triumph for the Republicans

By GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

At dawn Tuesday in West Quoddy Head, Maine, America's easternmost point, it was certain that by midnight in Cape Wrangell, Alaska, America's westernmost fringe, there would be a loser who deserved to lose and a winner who did not deserve to win. The surprise is that President Barack Obama must have immediately seen his legacy, a compound of stylistic and substantive arrogance, disappearing — as though written on water in ink of vapor.

His health care reform has contributed to three Democratic drubbings. The 2010 and 2014 wave elections, like scythes in a wheat field, decapitated a rising generation of potential party leaders. Then came Tuesday's earthquake, which followed shocking increases in Obamacare's prices. This law has been as historic as Obama thinks, but not as he thinks: It might be the last gasp of progressivism's hubris expressed in continentwide social engineering imposed from the continent's eastern edge. Hillary Clinton's proposed solution to Obamacare's accelerating unraveling was a "public option": intensified government manipulation to correct the consequences of government manipulation of health care's 18 percent of the economy. Her campaign's other defining proposal, "free" tuition in public higher education, insulted the intelligence of voters aware that "free" means "paid for by others, including you."

Obama's foreign policy debacle, aside from mounting chaos worldwide, was the Iran nuclear agreement. By precedent and constitutional norms, this should have been a treaty submitted to the Senate. Instead, disdainfully and characteristically, he produced it as an executive agreement. Because the agreement lacks legitimizing ratification by senators, the president-elect will feel uninhibited concerning his promise to repudiate it.



MARK LENIHAN/AP

A man reaches for the New York Post newspaper featuring President-elect Donald Trump's election victory on Wednesday in New York City.

The simultaneous sickness of both parties surely reveals a crisis of the American regime. The GOP was easily captured, and then quickly normalized, by history's most unpleasant and unprepared candidate, whose campaign was a Niagara of mendacities. And the world's oldest party contrived to nominate someone who lost to him.

To an electorate clamoring for disruptive change, Democrats offered a candidate as familiar as faded wallpaper. The party produced no plausible alternative to her joyless, stained embodiment of arrogant entitlement. And she promised to intensify the progressive mentality. "If you like your

health care plan, you can keep it?" Actually, you can't even keep your light bulbs.

Americans perennially complain about Washington gridlock, but for seven decades they have regularly produced gridlock's prerequisite — divided government. From 1944 through 2016, 22 of 37 elections gave at least one house of Congress to the party not holding the presidency; since 1954, 21 of 32 did; since 1994, eight of 12. Republicans now lack excuses: If 40 Democratic senators block repeal of Obamacare (or Supreme Court nominees), the Republicans' populist base will demand Democratic behavior — revision of Senate rules to make this body more majoritarian.

For constitutional conservatives, the challenge is exactly what it would have been had Clinton won: to strengthen the rule of law by restoring institutional equilibrium. This requires a Republican Congress to claw back from a Republican executive the legislative powers that Congress has ceded to the administrative state and to overreaching executives like Obama, whose executive unilateralism the president-elect admires.

From Clinton's nastiest aspiration, we are now safe. She promised Supreme Court justices who would reverse Citizens United, thereby eviscerating the First Amendment by empowering the political class to regulate the quantity, content and timing of campaign speech about itself. This will never happen.

Demography need not dictate for Republicans a grim destiny, but it soon will, unless they act to counter adverse trends. Republicans should absorb Tim Alberta's data in *National Review*: Arizona whites have gone from 74 percent to 54 percent of the population in 25 years; minorities will be a majority there by 2022. Texas minorities became a majority in 2004; whites are now 43 percent of the population. Nevada is 52 percent white and projected to be majority-minority in 2020. Georgia is 54 percent white, heading for majority-minority in 2026. Because of inexorably rising minorities, Clinton, an epically untalented candidate, did better than Obama did in 2012 in Georgia, Texas, Arizona and where 1 in 8 Americans lives — California.

The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on, perhaps soon to inscribe this: In 2016, Republicans won a ruinous triumph that convinced them that they can forever prosper by capturing an ever-larger portion of an ever-smaller portion of the electorate.

This kamikaze arithmetic of white nationalism should prompt the president-elect to test his followers' devotion to him by asking their permission to see the national tapestry as it is and should be.

What happens now that the election is over?

By JEFF BERGNER

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

Donald Trump has been elected president — and roughly half the country is disappointed, some deeply so. What comes next?

The temptation — already indulged by numerous pundits and media commentators — is to lament the sad state of the country. It is to conclude that the country is still deeply racist. It is to conclude that the country is not ready for a woman president. It is to conclude that many Americans, especially less-educated white males, are fearful of change, diversity and their loss of place. It is to conclude that the country is in deep trouble.

These sentiments all share a common feature: They blame the majority of Americans who voted for Donald Trump. They express absolutely no self-reflection.

When Republicans lose elections, Democrats are quick to offer advice. Republicans, they say, should move toward the political center. Republicans should reach out to Hispanic voters. Republicans should abandon their social-issue agenda.

Democrats should take a page out of their own book. They should take their own advice and engage in genuine self-reflec-



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Staff and supporters listen as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks Wednesday at the New Yorker Hotel in New York City, where she conceded to Republican Donald Trump.

tion about why they lost. If they were to do this, they would learn two lessons.

First, Hillary Clinton was a very flawed candidate. Her long-standing and repeated ethical lapses were not attractive to voters, who were loath to elect a president who has been under active investigation by the FBI. Democrats should run a better candidate next time.

Second, and more important, they would learn that the majority of Americans do not believe the government listens to, much less addresses, their concerns. They are tired of the political class talking down to them, lecturing them and even mocking them. They are tired of the political class conducting government business on its own behalf rather than on voters' behalf.

When voters wonder why we cannot control our border — a fair enough question — they are told they are racists. When voters express alarm over a federal debt approaching \$20 trillion — also fair enough — they are written off as know-nothings unfamiliar with arcane concepts of debt-to-GDP ratios and the like. When voters seek a measure of safety for themselves and their families — also fair enough — they are called bitter clingers. When voters oppose partial-birth abortion — a grisly and inhumane practice — they are called religious bigots and, incredibly, anti-woman.

Much about how the future unfolds will depend on how Donald Trump chooses to govern. Trump had no experience in running a primary election campaign when he began; he had never stood for election before. But he learned quickly enough to win. Nor had he any experience in running

a general election campaign, having never done that, either. But he learned quickly enough to win.

It is fair enough to say that on the cusp of assuming the presidency, Trump has no experience in governing, which is a very different enterprise than campaigning. But if the past is any guide, he will learn that quickly, too. He will learn that if he is to succeed, he will have to mend fences with his own political party in Washington. And he will hopefully learn, too, that he must reach out to the opposition party in a way that his predecessor never did.

Both political campaigns demeaned one another and demeaned the motives of opposition voters. In some measure, this was what attracted voters to Donald Trump — they felt for once they had a candidate who gave as good as he got.

But the campaign is over, and it is time to govern. For Trump, this will require a positive, forward-looking agenda, absent any political retaliation. For his opponents, it should mean an end to demeaning the majority of American voters and engaging in no long overdue self-reflection.

Jeff Bergner served in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. He is currently a resident of Norfolk, Va., and initially wrote this for the Virginian-Pilot.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



COURTESY OF ALISHA JOHN/AP

Baby's big hair and troll costume get notice

LA ELTON — A south-west-ern Louisiana woman said her 3-month-old daughter has such a full head of hair that strangers stop to admire it, and she made the baby a Halloween troll costume.

But Alisha John said she and her husband, Dakota, don't have long to play with baby Areca Sue Oiba John's hair. That's because she's a Coushatta Indian, and the tribe shaves babies' heads as part of a blessing ceremony when they're 4 months old.

She told the American Press in Lake Charles that her older children also were born with a lot of hair. But nothing like Areca's, whose blessing ceremony will be held on Nov. 25.

Police probe claim of water polo sexual attack

CA ALAMEDA — A high school water polo player in the Bay Area has been accused of sexually assaulting an opposing player during a game.

The Alameda Police Department said they have opened a criminal investigation after multiple Encinal High School players accused a Berkeley High School team member of behaving inappropriately in the water.

Berkeley Unified School District spokesman Charles Burress declined to comment on the investigation.

Hunter impaled by antler of elk he killed

OR PORTLAND — Authorities say an Oregon hunter was hospitalized after being impaled by the antler of an elk he had just killed.

KATU-TV reported that Crook County Sheriff's Office deputies said Gary Heeter, 69, of Bend, went hunting Saturday and was dragging the elk's carcass behind his four-wheeler.

Deputies said the vehicle flipped, sending Heeter backward onto the elk's antler.

Hospital officials said that Heeter was in fair condition.

Officers investigate fatal subway shove

NY NEW YORK — New York City police are looking at surveillance video in the investigation of a fatal subway shove at the bustling station beneath Times Square.

A train crushed a passenger to

THE CENSUS

6,500

The number of Kit Kat bars The Hershey Co. sent to a student at Kansas State University after he posted on Twitter a photo indicating that a Kit Kat had been stolen from inside his car. Hunter Jobbins told The Wichita Eagle he left his car unlocked with a Kit Kat in the cup holder last month before running into his dorm building. When he came back, the candy bar had been replaced with a note. The thief wrote: "I love Kit Kats so I checked your door and it was unlocked. Did not take anything other than the Kit Kat. I am sorry and hungry." Jobbins' picture of the note went viral on Twitter, and Hershey responded by sending a representative to the campus with 6,500 Kit Kat bars. Jobbins stuffed the bars into his car and handed them out around campus last week.



MIKE GROLL/AP

Decoys on board

Canada geese decoys are transported in a pickup Monday in Cobleskill, N.Y.

death about 1 p.m. Monday after another woman pushed her onto the tracks. Witnesses flagged down two police officers on the platform.

Melanie Liverpool, of Queens, was apprehended within minutes. She later was arrested on a murder charge. Authorities described her as emotionally disturbed.

Prosecutors claim Liverpool confessed to pushing the woman, but during her arraignment Tuesday, Liverpool said she was innocent.

Police stun, kill naked man in road after wreck

NC HENDERSONVILLE — Henderson County sheriff's deputies said a naked man they found in the road after a wreck died after they used a stun gun because he charged at them.

Maj. Frank Stout said in a statement that deputies were called about a wreck about 1 a.m. Tuesday. Stout said the driver was naked in the road, was acting extremely irrationally and was

noncompliant.

Stout said that as deputies tried to take the man into custody, he charged and a Taser was used.

The man went into cardiac arrest. He was taken to a hospital, where he died. The man's name has not been released.

Deputy shoots suspect wielding wooden stake

AZ CASA GRANDE — Authorities are investigating after a Pinal County deputy shot a suspect who was wielding a wooden stake.

The Casa Grande Dispatch reported that deputies responded Sunday to reports of a suspicious man at a mobile home community in Casa Grande. When deputies arrived, they found the 31-year-old suspect carrying the stake, which he refused to drop despite verbal commands from deputies.

Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu said the suspect was approaching the deputy while swinging the stake in a threatening manner. As the suspect

got close, the deputy fired three rounds, striking the suspect.

The suspect reportedly then dropped his stake and complied with orders. The suspect was transported to the Maricopa Medical Center, where he was listed in stable condition.

Over 20 Chihuahuas, a cat removed from home

NH CROYDON — Police said a Croydon woman surrendered more than 20 Chihuahuas and a cat on Saturday.

New Hampshire Animal Rescue League President Monica Zulauf said some of the dogs are currently in the organization's care in Bedford. She said two had to be put down, and others are unable to walk.

Police Chief Richard Lee said no charges had been filed as of Monday, but they could be forthcoming.

Lee told The Valley News that there had been previous complaints about the woman and her husband, but police weren't able

to apply for a warrant to enter their residence.

It's unclear what conditions the animals had been living in.

Woman gets wish and loses election bid

MI FRANKENMUTH — Bridget Smith wanted voters not to elect her to Frankenmuth's school board — and they didn't.

Smith filed earlier this year to run for one of three 4-year terms on the school board, but afterward was hired to serve as Frankenmuth's city manager.

When she was being hired by the Bavarian-themed community about 75 miles northwest of Detroit, Smith indicated that she would drop her school board bid. But the deadline to withdraw had passed and her name remained on Tuesday's ballot.

She encouraged voters not to cast ballots for her and Smith placed last among the four from wire reports

HEALTH & FITNESS

**Eat a heavy meal**

"After an intense workout, it's extremely important to give yourself time to cool down before eating," says Leila Fazel, co-founder of Aerospace. "A grueling workout will leave your body stressed and, subsequently, your brain will think you're more ravenous than you actually are."

That can end in unnecessary bingeing." Instead, while your body is still revving, give yourself a breather before eating.

**Indulge in a sugary sports beverage**

"People tend to go overboard after a workout, fueling up with sugary drinks like Gatorade or Powerade," explains Fazel.

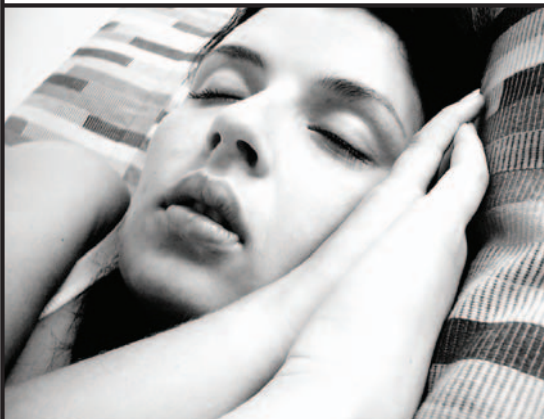
"Unfortunately, those drinks are laden with sugar and high-fructose corn syrup. Though sugar in the short term makes you feel good right away, drinking a ton of sugar after a workout won't allow your body to metabolize — it's not rehydrating what your body has lost during the workout. Water is the best fuel post-workout."

SEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD **NEVER** DO AFTER WORKING OUT

By HALLIE GOULD
Tribune News Service

After I bring myself to work out, all I want to do is eat, nap and Netflix. Because I worked my butt off, I'll usually go for an all-in meal of all my favorite fatty foods. Naturally, this is not healthy (or helpful) behavior. To find out exactly what I could do — and what I should absolutely stay away from — I tapped a few fitness and health experts for their thoughts on the subject.

You'll find all the drinks you should stay away from, the foods you definitely shouldn't eat, and a few common mistakes you're probably making along the way.

**Take a nap**

Fazel says, "Though your body may be exhausted after an intense workout, resist the urge to take a nap. Going to sleep directly after exercising won't allow your body to relax and cool down. It's similar to slamming on the brakes in a car. Your muscles are still fatigued and overworked — it's important to take an hour and a half to two hours to truly cool down before resting."

Touch your face with a sweaty towel

"Think about it," SoulCycle instructor and holistic nutritionist Eve Lynn Kessner says. "You wipe your sweat off your shoulders, abs, then your face? NO! Your hands are filled with germs you (or the person who used that machine before you) sweat out. First thing, wash your hands and splash your face with some cool water. Beauty comes from the inside out, but clogging those pores won't help your cause."

**Rush your stretch**

"Stretching post-workout helps the breakdown of lactic acid that your body built up during exercise, releasing it through the muscles. Getting into the habit will help avoid injury and soreness, as well as drastically improve your flexibility," Fazel says.

**Stay in sweaty clothing**

"Take your time hydrating and cooling down after your workout, but don't walk around all day in sweaty clothing," advises

Kessner. "Let that inner glow shine (not chafe), and put on something clean and breathable."

**Forget to drink water**

"Always hydrate," Kessner says. "If your workout was super sweaty, go for some natural electrolytes by way of coconut water — so many juice places now will serve it straight from the shell — or watermelon water."

LIFESTYLE



Diego Davila-Rivera practices a high fall at the International Stunt School near Seattle.

BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

CRASH COURSE

Falls, fights and fires are all in a day's work at stunt school

By BRENDAN KILEY ■ The Seattle Times

The students are trying to look stoic, standing in a gravel parking lot near Bothell under the scorching August sun—but they all know that, by the end of the day, every one of them is going to be set on fire.

As they burn, they'll be scrutinized by their instructors, professional stunt performers, who could potentially make or break their budding careers.

This is the International Stunt School, a three-week course founded in 1992 by the now-septuagenarian stunt veteran David Boushey, where students learn how to punch and get punched, fall from frightening heights, hustle their way through the professional hazards of Hollywood,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

LIFESTYLE

FROM PAGE 16

tumble down stairs, drive cars in a way that would get a normal person arrested — and set for the camera while on fire. Lee Gifford, a 29-year-old who spent a few years in the Navy, stands quietly on the day's burn mat, slathered head to toe in ice-cold protective goop. "You guys are going to find this gel in every one of your orifices after you're done!" instructor Daniel Ford Beavis shouts gleefully. "Go OK!" says Kyla Hymas. Ladd, an ISS instructor who started as a dancer and has worked as a stuntwoman for "The Walking Dead" and as a fight choreographer for "Lord of the Rings," Gifford nods. "When you're ready," Ladd says, "take a big breath and give us a double thumbs-up! And don't breathe in."

Gifford gives the thumbs-up. Beavis lights the back of Gifford's coat — which has been covered in a special fire accelerant — with a blue blowtorch. The flames and smoke fly upward. "Don't breathe in!" Ladd shouts. "You're doing good!" Gifford gapes and waves his arms around, pretending to be in agony — at least we hope he's pretending.

After a few seconds, Ladd signals Gifford to drop to the mat. Two instructors leap forward to put him out and cool him down with a fire extinguisher and water from a hose, asking, "You hot? Where are you hot?"

"You OK?" Ladd asks. "Yes," Gifford grunts. He stands up and walks slowly to a makeshift shower made of PVC and plastic tarps, where he washes the goop off his face.

Then another student is set on fire. Then another. And another.

There are 50 students in the ISS class of 2016, most of them 20-somethings with athletic backgrounds hoping to make a living in the stunt world: movies, TV, live stunt shows, video games. For the past couple of summers, Boushey says, casting directors have been flying up to Seattle and watching the new prospects.

ISS student Amanda Cook worked as a stunt performer in a haunted house in Denver and now guides river-rafting trips in North Carolina. Gina Kessler, from Monroe, is part of a jousting and sword-fighting company that travels the Renaissance fair circuit. Matt Stevens, from the United Kingdom, is a rock climber and professional circus performer whose specialties include high-lining, juggling and onstage fire stunts.

Stevens says he was attracted more by the physical challenges of stunt life than being in the movies. But, he adds, ISS is giving him "a greater appreciation for the industry — like a chef tasting a meal that's very well done will have a greater appreciation for what went into it than the average person."

While students are being blazed and extinguished, Boushey stands nearby, wearing sunglasses and scratching at his graying mustache. "That was OK," he grumbles quietly after one of the burns. "It's a perfect example of somebody who thinks he's giving it his all, but it's not enough. You've got to sell it for the camera."

Fire burns look scary, he says, but they're one of the safest in the stunt repertoire — fights and falls are far more treacherous. "But everybody," he shrugs, "is in awe of the guy who gets set on fire."

Boushey walks into the

fire-burn zone and gives the students a stern lecture. "You can't half-ass it!" he declares. "When I'm on set and see somebody not selling a stunt, it drives me crazy! Because I know exactly where that producer is." He taps his watch and makes an exasperated face. "If you don't sell it and have to do it over again, you're costing the company lots of money."

The starting rate for a stunt performer, he says later, is \$966 a day. "But that's peanuts." After overtime rates and bonuses for pulling off dangerous stunts, "It's not unusual for a stuntman to make \$2,000 to \$3,000 a day."

The real trick is breaking into the business.

Boushey has been in the industry for around 40 years and founded the International Stunt School more than two decades ago — despite consternation from his colleagues.

When Boushey entered the stunt world, he says, it was dominated, almost mafia-style, by a few families who passed jobs from father to son, and resisted newcomers. "It was a dynasty system," he says. "I've worked with people in those families and respect them, but they ran the show. I got sick and tired of seeing talented people never get a break."

So he started ISS — licensed as a vocational school in Washington; tuition is

\$4,300 — in the face of complaints from stunt families that he was revealing their secrets. Since then, ISS graduates have worked in some of the biggest projects in the industry: "Harry Potter," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "12 Years a Slave," "The Hunger Games," "Jurassic World," "Indiana Jones," "Sherlock Holmes" and many others. "There's nothing better than seeing the credits for something like 'Game of Thrones,'" Boushey says, "and thinking, 'Hey! Roy Taylor! Class of 1998!'"

Seattle, he says, might seem like a strange place to start a school for Hollywood work. "But I wouldn't want to start a stunt school in L.A., because it wouldn't be..." He pauses. "A healthy thing to do. You could wake up one morning and find a pipe bomb under your car. Someone could meet an instructor or student in a back alley and rough them up."

Seriously? "Well," he allows, "maybe the pipe-bomb part was a little bit of hyperbole."

It took Hollywood fight coordinators about 15 years to come around, Boushey says, but now some of them are sending their proteges to him: "Stunt coordinators have realized that it's better for them if somebody walks onto the set and they're already trained. My students make them look good. And as a coordinator, you don't have time to train stunt

people because you're too busy training the stars on set."

Jessica Bennett, a 2009 ISS graduate who specializes in horseback riding and sword fights, says she's profoundly grateful for what she learned at ISS, but there's still "a stigma" about it among some old-school Hollywood stunt performers. "I'm not ashamed that I went to the school, but I don't advertise it," she says. "Seattle" is almost like a code word in the stunt world. If someone's telling a story and says "Seattle," a few other people will nod and say, "Yeah, Seattle." And they know what you're talking about.

Bennett, who doubles as an on-set medic, avoids telling strangers she's a stuntwoman. That revelation usually invites a barrage of awkward questions, from the worst injury she's had — she doesn't like to revisit that day — to which movies people might have seen her in. "One of my friends has the greatest answer," she says. "It's: 'I don't know! I don't know what you watch!'"

Boushey says he also dodges the question, even though he has hundreds of theater and film credits — including "Blue Velvet," "Drugstore Cowboy" and "Twin Peaks," as well as 53 stage productions of "Romeo and Juliet" — and has been inducted into the Hollywood Stuntmen's Hall of Fame. (Its motto: "Falling for stars.")

He learned his lesson years ago, when he told people at a bar he was a stuntman. They asked him to choreograph a simple fight for them on the spot. "I did it, just to be silly," he says. It sparked a full-on barroom brawl. "Everybody was piling on... after that, I swore I'd steer clear of the question."

PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

Instructor Greg Poljackic, left, launches student Kyla Hymas, who flies through the air with the help of a ratchet system. Right: Student Ariel Lee is lit for a fire burn at the International Stunt School in Seattle. Below: On the stunt course, students practice precision driving skills as one car drives in reverse with two others close behind and another passing.



There are 50 students in the ISS class of 2016, most of them 20-somethings with athletic backgrounds hoping to make a living in the stunt world: movies, TV, live stunt shows, video games. For the past couple of summers, Boushey says, casting directors have been flying up to Seattle and watching the new prospects.



VIDEO GAMES



BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD
Special to The Washington Post

“Mafia 3” is an imperfect game that’s more interesting than any number of conventionally polished creations. It’s the rare AAA title that seems to have funneled more resources into its characters than its gameplay.



Having caught wind of some of the tepid reviews it received earlier this month, I’d braced myself for a letdown. I definitely didn’t expect to play what amounts to a cultural milestone in the history of the form. Never has a mainstream video game focused on the awful side of America’s racial legacy with such frank insistence. And never has a video game had such an interesting cast of black characters.

Set in 1968 — when society was polarized over issues ranging from Vietnam, to Cuba, to the civil rights movement — players inhabit the world of Lincoln Clay. Lincoln is a lonely son of New Bordeaux, the game’s version of New Orleans. After a four-year stint in the military, where he distinguished himself in the Special Forces, Lincoln returns home to the family that took him in as an orphan. As much as he’d like to relax and drink a couple of beers, he is quick to help his friend out in a soup kitchen serving the needy. Lincoln’s desire to help those around them sets him on a perilous trajectory. His luck turns sour when the kitchen is raided by a gang of Haitians who are looking to move in on the territory controlled by his surrogate father, Sammy Robinson, who leads the city’s black mob.

Heeding Sammy’s advice to spare the area’s black community the sight of seeing blacks fighting blacks, Lincoln ventures into the bayou where he slaughters members of the rival gang. This does little to alleviate Sammy’s anxieties, of which he’d hoped to spare Lincoln. The Haitians have put such a drain on his

business that Sammy has been late posting kickbacks to Sal Marciano, the head of the more powerful Italian mafia. Looking to repair relations, Lincoln visits Marciano, who asks him to participate in a robbery of the Federal Reserve. Hoping to clear Sammy’s debt, Lincoln agrees. But their discussion becomes tense after Marciano floats the idea of Lincoln taking over the black mob once the job is finished. Out of loyalty to Sammy, Lincoln respectfully demurs.

Although the robbery is a success, Lincoln is double-crossed by the Italians, who shoot him in the head and then execute his adopted family. Against all odds, Lincoln survives and sets out on a path of revenge, leading him to forge precarious alliances with the Haitians, the Irish and the Italians. The ethnic tensions between them and nearly everyone else in the game are omnipresent. Nearly everywhere Lincoln travels, he hears the worst verbal epithets directed toward him or blacks in general. Simply walking past the police, much less driving near them in a car, draws suspicion.

The developers are not wary of making their audience feel

A CULTURAL MILESTONE

‘Mafia 3’ tackles racism and war, topics most mass entertainment steers clear of



Photos courtesy of 2K Games

uncomfortable. The game bludgeons players with the un-ironic use of the n-word. But it also stages powerful displays of black resistance using a variety of audiovisual means, from a guy on the radio talking about the historically racist underpinnings of the marijuana laws in the United States, to giving players the opportunity to violently disrupt a gathering of white supremacists and break up a human trafficking ring.

When the missions come together, they can be thrillingly indulgent. More often than not, though, they stick to a basic pattern: infiltrate a building, carefully pick off the guys with the sentry signs above their heads to prevent calls

for reinforcements, and kill your way to your goal. On the normal difficulty level, the A.I. is easy to manipulate. Using techniques that you are taught near the beginning of the game, you can pick off whole crews by whistling from behind cover to draw an enemy’s attention and then knifing them quietly. Repeatedly doing this on similar-looking enemies grows numbing. Thankfully, there are other aspects of the world to get lost in, such as the soundtrack, which is a cavalcade of hits from the era, and the cutscenes, in which the acting is commendable.

Because I wanted to see what happened to Lincoln and the characters around him, I was able to deal with some of the

other obvious flaws in the game. Aside from the ho-hum A.I., it’s difficult not to notice the erratic way the game handles vehicle-hit detection or subject-world interactions. What most annoyed me in the game was the sight of Lincoln swimming along various shorelines that were near but impossible to reach. But I suppose if any action captures his struggle in the world, it’s that.

By daring to tread along the cultural fault lines that most mass entertainment steers clear of, “Mafia 3” reminded me to expect more from video games.

Platforms: PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One
Online: mafiagame.com



Many staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/games

ENTERTAINMENT

LEECH SUCKER HITS TV TOWN



SCOTT KIRKLAND, PICTUREGROUP, SIPA USA/TNS

Marilyn Manson — at the premiere of “We Are X” at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on Oct. 3 — will appear in “Salem.” The show airs Sundays on AFN-Spectrum.

Rocker hopes to shake up ‘Salem’

By LORRAINE ALI
Los Angeles Times

Apparently basing an entire TV series on the horrors of 17th-century witch trials wasn't disturbing enough. On “Salem,” macabre rocker Marilyn Manson plays a sadistic barber/surgeon/butcher.

“He likes to serve up Sweeney Todd-style sausages for snacks,” says Manson, aka Brian Warner, of his character, Thomas Dinley. “He’s also a childish sociopath who’s curious about what’s inside a human. His way of finding out is cutting them open, and sometimes before they’re dead.”

Manson, who’s spent much of his career peddling similarly squeamish

Any other upcoming films or TV roles?
I may be doing something next year in a major motion picture; a major superhero film that I can’t mention.
And you’d be playing ...
A villain, of course.

themes in his music, appears regularly throughout “Salem’s” new season. But when not playing a sociopathic butcher, Manson still makes music under the banner of a parental warning sticker. The Los Angeles singer, finishing his 10th album, spoke about what it’s like to shed the makeup and play someone other than Marilyn Manson.

You’ve done a fair amount of film and TV work, but this “Salem” role seems tailor-made for you.

(Co-creator Brannon Braga) said, “Just be yourself.” I said, “What are you trying to say?” He said, “Well, there are a lot of elements in you and Dinley that are the same.” “You mean, I have a completely laissez-faire attitude when serving people sausages that are made out of other people?”

Please tell me the leech it looks like you’re sucking in one scene was fake.

It was not fake.

Great. I can’t ever unsee that.

We even had a leech wrangler. He was concerned I was going to hurt them.

What’s it like to be a “surgeon” from the 1600s?

Interesting. (Laughs) Science wasn’t really something that was understood, so this character is the go-to person if you wanted something done that wasn’t curable by religion, medicine or the puritanical (remedy) of hangings. If someone comes to his place of business, it provides an array of services from haircuts to tooth-pulling. It’s a 1600s version of a strip mall where they have a doughnut shop next to an orthodontist.

Ironically, he has a lot of things in his office that I have (as decor) in my home.

I’m afraid to ask, but what type of things?

Old medical equipment; apothecary (jars). I collect prosthetic limbs, some dating as far back as the Civil War. A lot of people think looking at death, or those kinds of instruments, is morbid and what you’d expect to see in Marilyn Manson’s house. It was what you’d expect, but way worse.

Are the film and TV roles you’ve been offered always on the creepy side?

There are some people who offer me the ironic role, straight-edged or romantic-comedy roles.

As far as comedy goes, I can be as funny as I need to be in the right circumstance. But I’m not going to tell you I’m funny now, because that makes me obligated to be funny. The pressure.

But I like the concept of being a character actor. And I like the careers of Gary Oldman, Tom Waits and Dwight Yoakam.

You look relatively normal in “Salem.” By that, I mean you’re not wearing Marilyn Manson makeup. Same goes for your role in “Sons of Anarchy.” It’s like you’re in disguise.

I normally shave my eyebrows and don’t have facial hair, so if you put in facial hair and eye-brows, suddenly I don’t look the same. If I ever decided to rob banks, I would be good at avoiding criminal prosecution. I just take off the makeup, grow eyebrows and I’m incognito. The beard is a little more work. It took me a week just to grow stubble (for the Dinley character).

You’re also still making albums and touring.

Yes, my next album’s called “Say10,” like Satan. I found that title in my 12th-grade yearbook at Christian school. It goes back that far. The record is very political, socially and sexually. It deals with things I’ve talked about a lot but may not have sung enough. I work best when I combine imagery and words, rather than just words alone. Acting reminded me of that.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Once and always a military family

This week, our family took the ultimate leap of faith. After 28 years of active-duty military service, my husband, Francis, retired. I used to think that it would feel weird, that I would be a little depressed, that the world would look different through civilian eyes. But now, as we prepare to transition, I remember the moment a couple of months ago when I realized it would be OK.

It was seven in the morning, and the late-summer sun was already shining crisp and bright on the train platform. Francis hastily parked my luggage at my feet, inadvertently nicking my toe in the process.

“Oooh, sorry Hon, but I’d better get to work ... Call me when you get to your mother’s.” He leaned down to give me a quick kiss goodbye, wearing his khaki uniform — buttoned, tucked, pinned and polished. In 23 years as a Navy wife, I’ve become quite accustomed to goodbyes, but this one felt different.

I observed the other passengers waiting and drew conclusions about their lives. A sleepy student, a hip grandmother, an arrogant businessman, a frumpy divorcee. It dawned on me that they had taken notice of Francis’ uniform and deduced, “A military family.” The uniform that I scrubbed ink stains out of, ironed countless times, hung on the back of the kitchen door and often took for granted, had defined us for more than two decades.

The uniform dictates that I am a military spouse and our kids are “military brats.” It is a sign that Francis has dedicated his career to military service. It tells a tale of duty, deployments, separation, transition, challenges, hardships, patriotism, pride and adventure. It speaks to the strength, resilience and courage of the people who wear it.

At our wedding in 1993, Francis was a young Navy lieutenant and I was a brand-new attorney. Within two years, we rocked our baby boy, Hayden, in base quarters in Monterey, Calif., at the Naval Postgraduate School. In another couple of years, we were in rural England, where Anna was delivered by an Irish midwife. A few years later, we were in Virginia Beach, Va., where Francis completed a sea tour, three shore tours and a yearlong deployment to Djibouti, Africa, while our family grew to include our youngest daughter, Lillian.

After a three-year adventure in Germany, where Francis worked at Africa Command, we found ourselves at Naval Station Mayport, Fla. Now, in Rhode Island at the Naval War College, in the twilight of a long military career, we watch our children use their skills as military kids to succeed in high school and college.

A mother’s secret is often grown from behind a house across the tracks, bringing me back to the present. I gulped hard, remembering that in a few short months, Francis would retire from the military. “Where do we go from here?” I wondered.

Then I remembered that our military identity lies deep within our hearts, not in outward signs and symbols. Soon, Francis’ uniform will be stored in the back of the hall closet, but he will always be a Navy veteran. And our family will always be a military family through and through.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: thymeandpotatoesoffile.com. Email: meatandpotatoesoffile@gmail.com

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Nintendo ending Japan Wii U sales, shifting to Switch

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — Nintendo Co. is ending sales in Japan of its Wii U home console "soon," although it's not saying exactly when, and similar announcements are expected in other regions.

The Wii U, which went on sale in late 2012, is being replaced by Switch, set to go on sale globally in March 2017. Nintendo says it will show it to reporters in Japan on Jan. 13.

The Japanese video game manufacturer behind the Super Mario and Pokemon franchises already has shipped Wii U machines for

U.S. sales through March, company spokesman Kenichiro Matsura said Friday.

Kyoto-based Nintendo has scored success with the remake of its 1980s FamiCom machine, called NES Classic Edition, which goes on sale Friday in the U.S. for \$59.99.

Japanese buyers have been snatching it up since it went on sale Thursday.

Much smaller than the original machine, it comes packed with popular game software titles, such as "Donkey Kong," "The Legend of Zelda" and "Super Mario Bros."



JAEC. HONG/AP

Attendees play video games on the Nintendo 3DS at the Nintendo Wii U showcase during the E3 game show in Los Angeles in June 2013.

Another recent hit the company has scored is "Pokemon Go," an augmented-reality game that can be played on smartphones.

Nintendo's earnings have suffered from lagging sales of the Wii U, as well as its 3DS handheld.

After years of scoffing at the threat from smartphones, Nintendo did an about-face last year and entered that sector. Pokemon Go is the first big success for Nintendo since that decision, underlining the company's potential.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 14).....	\$1.1191
Dollar buys (Nov. 14).....	€0.8936
British pound (Nov. 14).....	\$1.28
Japanese yen (Nov. 14).....	¥99.00
South Korean won (Nov. 14).....	₩1,119.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3770
British pound.....	\$1.2624/0.7921
Canada (dollar).....	1.3539
China (Yuan).....	6.8097
Denmark (Krone).....	6.8447
Egypt (Pound).....	16.7469
Euro.....	\$1.0873/0.9197
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	7.7579
Hungary (Forint).....	284.22
Israel (Shekel).....	3.8532
Japan (Yen).....	106.52
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3034
Norway (Krone).....	3.3940
Philippines (Peso).....	49.18
Poland (Zloty).....	4.07
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.4125
South Korea (Won).....	1,170.99
Switzerland (Franc).....	0.9863
Thailand (Baht).....	35.41
Turkey (Lira).....	3.2606

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., for U.S. dollars in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies except local, except for the U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	3.50
Account rate.....	3.00
Federal funds market rate.....	0.36
3-month bill.....	0.42
30-year bond.....	2.94

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 10, 2016

Dow Jones	218.19
Industrials	18,807.88
Nasdaq composite	-42.27
	5,208.80
Standard & Poor's 500	4.22
	2,167.48
Russell 2000	19.44
	1,251.60

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	63	50	Cldy	Chatanooga	63	36	Clr	Fort Wayne	49	29	Clr	Louisville	54	30	Clr
Akron, Ohio	48	31	Clr	Cheyenne	65	42	Clr	Fresno	77	51	PCldy	Lubbock	59	43	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	48	32	Clr	Cincinnati	51	30	Clr	Goodland	61	34	Clr	Macon	67	39	PCldy
Albuquerque	58	38	Clr	Cleveland	50	35	PCldy	Grand Junction	52	36	PCldy	Medford	59	45	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	50	28	Clr	Colorado Springs	61	35	Clr	Great Falls	64	43	PCldy	Memphis	63	40	Clr
Ames	39	39	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	61	34	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	53	30	Clr	Miami Beach	80	66	PCldy
Anchorage	39	31	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	68	46	Clr	Harrisburg	49	30	Clr	Midland-Odessa	61	48	Cldy
Asheville	55	29	Clr	Columbus, Ohio	50	28	Clr	Hartford	49	30	Clr	Milwaukee	55	36	Clr
Atlanta	64	42	Clr	Concord, N.H.	48	30	Clr	Honolulu	85	67	PCldy	Minneapolis	50	34	Clr
Atlantic City	50	29	Clr	Corpus Christi	78	62	Cldy	Houston	74	56	Cldy	Nashville	61	34	Clr
Austin	72	42	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	67	52	PCldy	Indianapolis	51	31	Clr	New Orleans	72	58	PCldy
Baltimore	51	30	Clr	Dayton	50	30	Clr	Jacksonville	68	44	Clr	New York City	49	40	Clr
Baton Rouge	72	51	PCldy	Daytona Beach	78	62	Clr	Kansas City	54	35	Clr	North Platte	62	32	Clr
Bilings	67	43	Clr	Denver	67	39	Clr	Key West	58	34	Clr	Omaha	57	37	Clr
Birmingham	69	44	Clr	Des Moines	55	38	Clr	Knoxville	58	34	PCldy	Orlando	80	60	Clr
Bismarck	64	39	Clr	Detroit	49	33	Clr	Lansing	51	34	PCldy	Paderbach	57	31	Clr
Boise	62	43	Cldy	Duluth	50	37	Clr	Las Vegas	75	55	Clr	Pendleton	59	41	Cldy
Boston	48	39	Clr	El Paso	68	46	PCldy	Lexington	52	29	Clr	Philadelphia	50	36	Clr
Bridgeport	48	35	Clr	Elkins	48	33	Clr	Lincoln	59	37	Clr	Phoenix	83	60	Clr
Brownsville	74	63	Cldy	Erie	47	38	PCldy	Little Rock	61	39	Clr	Pittsburgh	46	30	Clr
Buffalo	47	41	Clr	Evansville	59	48	Rain	Los Angeles	82	60	PCldy				
Burlington, Vt.	46	36	PCldy	Fairbanks	22	17	PCldy								
Caribou, Maine	41	33	Cldy	Fargo	55	40	Clr								
Casper	66	38	Clr	Flagstaff	58	27	Clr								
Charleston, S.C.	63	41	PCldy	Flint	49	33	Clr								
Charleston, W.Va.	52	28	Clr	Fort Smith	64	39	Clr								
Charlotte, N.C.	57	30	Clr												

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 98, Miramar N.S., Calif.
Lo: Thu., 8, Alamosa, Colo.

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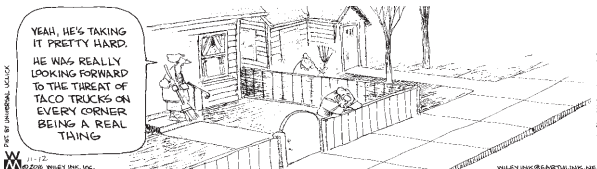
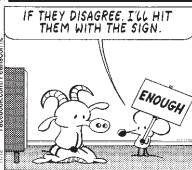
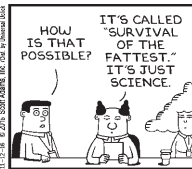
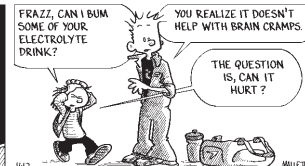
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- 1 Offend
- 5 Skydive
- 9 School org.
- 12 Not busy
- 13 Sci-fi race
- 14 Coffee vessel
- 15 — -do-well
- 16 Demolish
- 17 Observe
- 18 Despot
- 19 — whim
- 20 "That was close!"

1 Gum flavor	for short
2 Mid-month date	29 Zero
3 Dog bane	30 Half of dos
4 Interisland transports	31 Signing need
5 Dancer Robbins	35 Exhibited ennui
6 — Bator	36 Poolside structure
7 "Don Giovanni" composer	39 Darkens
8 Chart format	40 Tend texts
9 Shove	41 Squarish
10 Nest setting	43 Scratched (out)
11 From the start	45 Barn roof spinner
20 TV lawyer	46 Bygone Peruvian
22 Stag	47 Antelope's playmate
24 Potato, for one	49 Consumed

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BY B L E M Q Q N S M D F B K K .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RUMOR HAS IT THAT
 I SWITCHED FROM FARMING CORN TO WHEAT.
 THERE ISN'T A GRAIN OF TRUTH TO IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals I



VIETNAM

AT
50



Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

Briefly

Dickey opts to go to Braves for \$8M

Associated Press

ATLANTA — R.A. Dickey was won over by an Atlanta Braves sales team that included two Hall of Famers, including a fellow knuckleballer.

Dickey said he knew the Braves would be a good fit after meeting in Nashville, Tenn., with a group that included manager Brian Snitker, general manager John Coppolella and two Hall of Famers — former manager Bobby Cox and knuckleballer Phil Niekro.

"I had a great feeling then there was great hope I would be able to join the organization," Dickey said Thursday after agreeing to a one-year contract with an \$8 million guarantee.

He considers Niekro to be part of the "Jedi council of knuckleballers" who influenced his career.

"Phil and I have a good relationship," Dickey said. "I consider him a friend. We filmed a documentary together."

He gets a \$7.5 million salary next year, and the Braves have an \$8 million option for 2018 with a \$500,000 buyout. The deal for the 42-year-old right-hander, the first of the 158 free agents to switch teams this offseason, is subject to a successful physical, tentatively planned for late next week.

Dickey had a career-high 20 wins and won the NL Cy Young in 2012, his final season with the New York Mets. The right-hander spent the last four years with the Toronto Blue Jays, going 10-15 with a 4.46 ERA this year.

Packers LB Matthews to miss Titans game

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers say linebacker Clay Matthews will miss the game Sunday against the Tennessee Titans because of a lingering hamstring injury.

Coach Mike McCarthy ruled Matthews out on Friday. The Packers' best pass rusher will be sidelined a third straight game, and a fourth overall this season.

McCarthy also says that receiver Randall Cobb won't be limited for Sunday's game. Cobb hurt his hamstring last month. The Packers were cautious with how they used Cobb in last week's loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

With a 4-4 record, the Packers face an important contest at Tennessee.

Sexton, Petty highlight Tide's recruiting class

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Avery Johnson's recruiting class at Alabama is rated among the nation's best.

The second-year coach announced a five-player group Friday that's highlighted by five-star guards Collin Sexton and John Petty. Johnson called it a huge day for the Crimson Tide basket-

ball program, saying, "Wherever we're ranked, it's the No. 1 class in my mind."

He's not far off from Scout and Rivals rate the class No. 2 nationally, which is the program's highest recruiting ranking.

Rivals rated both Petty and Sexton among the nation's top-25 prospects.

All five were rated among the 100 best, including guard Herb Jones and forwards Alex Reese and Galin Smith.

Sexton announced his college choice Thursday on ESPN, while Petty made his decision public at halftime of his high school game later that night.

Rhodes wins Armed Forces Merit Award

FORT WORTH, Texas — Middle Tennessee defensive end and U.S. Marine veteran Steven Rhodes has been chosen the winner of the Armed Forces Merit Award.

A seven-person committee of Football Writers Association of America members and Armed Forces Bowl officials selected Rhodes from a group of 16 nominees. The announcement was made Friday.

Rhodes served five years in the Marines before joining Middle Tennessee's football program in 2013. He has made 27 career starts and has 29 tackles this season for the Blue Raiders.

The FWAA created this award in 2012. Previous winners include Texas' Nate Boyer in 2012, North Texas' Brandon McCoy in 2013 and Clemson's Daniel Rodriguez in 2014 and Westminster College's Bret Robertson in 2015.

All four were U.S. Army veterans who later played college football.

Russian swimmer receives 8-year ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Russian swimmer Vitaly Melnikov has been banned for eight years for a second positive doping test, during training for Olympic qualifying races.

FINA says Melnikov tested positive for a growth hormone in a sample taken in Moscow in March.

FINA says he was provisionally suspended in April to bar him from a qualification meet later that week for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Melnikov did not contest the FINA finding into his case, the ruling says.

The 26-year-old Russian is banned through April 21, 2024.

Melnikov served a two-year ban for testing positive for EPO at the 2013 European short-course championships.

He was stripped of an individual silver medal in backstroke and a team relay gold.



JOHN AMIS/AP

Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander could be available for the right price. Not even a week has passed since the Chicago Cubs won their first World Series title in more than a century, and teams are already involved in trade talk as they position themselves for 2017 and the future.

Big-name players in play as GMs meet in Arizona

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Big league general managers walked under seven palm trees and across the sun-splashed red stone courtyard of the Sonoran Desert resort where they had spent four days. Pulling their wheeled bags as guitar music played on speakers, they passed a sign that explained Montelucia, part of the hotel's name, was Spanish for mountain of light.

While no trades were completed at the first meeting of the offseason, many found the session illuminating: a constellation of stars are in play.

Detroit will listen to offers for pitcher Justin Verlander, first baseman Miguel Cabrera, second baseman Ian Kinsler, right fielder J.D. Martinez and designated hitter Victor Martinez.

The Chicago White Sox would deal ace pitcher Chris Sale for the right price.

Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen and New York Yankees catcher Brian McCann are available.

All All-Stars.

"I know that magnitude. Of course I do. That's why we chose to be transparent," said Al Avila, GM of the payroll-paring Tigers. "We chose to tell the players the possibility of things happening."

When to make a swap is one of the key factors. "In other deals that we've done, we've ended up getting as much if not more around the trade deadline than we would have in the prior offseason, because at the trade deadline there's fewer players available," Pirates GM Neal Huntington said as he left Thursday. "There's more angst about competing."

Many of the sport's biggest agents also attended the session, eager to provide clubs with the latest statistics designed to present their clients in the best light. Scott Boras came up with a new acronym to describe former All-Star closer Greg Holland, rehabbing from Tommy John surgery in October 2015.

"Everybody wants the help pitcher, the High Level Performance Pitcher," he said. "We've got our



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks at a news conference during baseball's annual general managers meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz.

HLPP algorithm, and these guys create value."

For some teams, leaving the comfort of their offices is a chore.

"It's a necessary evil," Yankees GM Brian Cashman said. "You fly out here, meet with everybody as much as you possibly can, go through your administrative meetings with MLB and fly home."

There was a little news on the final day. R.A. Dickey, a 42-year-old knuckleballer, became the first of the 158 free agents to change teams, agreeing to a one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves that guarantees \$8 million. St. Louis outfielder Matt Holliday became the final free agent when he and the Cardinals agreed to waive the provision in his contract that called for his \$17 million option for 2017 to become guaranteed if he finished in the top 10 in MVP voting.

Higher-profile players in a relatively weak free-agent class are likely to take their time before striking deals, a group that includes closers Aroldis Chapman, Kenley Jansen and Mark Melancon; outfielders Jose Bautista, Yoenis Cespedes, Dexter Fowler and Mark Trumbo, and designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion.

NHL

Roundup

Staal lifts Wild over Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Minnesota Wild, after a long layoff, were admittedly a little rusty early on the road against the defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins.

But Eric Staal provided the spark offensively to allow the defensive-minded Wild to settle down.

Staal had a three-point night, including the game-winning goal in the third period, as the Wild defeated the Penguins 4-2 on Thursday night.

"I've scored a few against (Pittsburgh) and I've felt the pain against them in the playoffs a few years, too," Staal said. "It was nice to get the win tonight."

Staal has spent 11 of his 12 NHL seasons in the Eastern Conference, and last season he played for the Rangers, a team the Penguins eliminated in the playoffs en route to the franchise's fourth Stanley Cup.

Still, Staal has experienced success against Pittsburgh and the trend continued Thursday. Staal scored his fifth of the season and added two assists, giving him 51 points in 50 career games against the Penguins.

Charlie Coyle scored his fourth of the season on the power play, while Nino Niederreiter added his third and Jared Spurgeon his second into an empty net for the Wild, who won for the fourth time in six games.

Coyle, Dubnyk, who made 39 saves, allowed fewer than three goals for the eighth straight game, which includes a streak of three straight shutouts. The Wild defeated the Penguins for the first time in five games, including four straight in Pittsburgh.

"This was a great challenge going against the Stanley Cup champions who hadn't lost in regulation at home," Wild coach Bruce Boudreau said. "I think they were up for it."

Sidney Crosby and Patrick Hornqvist both scored power-play goals for Pittsburgh, which opened the season with a six-game point streak. Phil Kessel had two assists for Pittsburgh, which allowed a season-high 43 shots.

Marc-Andre Fleury made his first start in a week on Thursday and stopped 40 shots. He backed up Matt Murray the previous two games.

Sharks 4, Panthers 2: Tommy Wingels scored the go-ahead goal at 8:53 of the third period to lift visiting San Jose over Florida.

Logan Couture, Joe Pavelski and Brent Burns also scored for the Sharks. Martin Jones made 22 saves.

Predators 3, Blues 1: Calle Jankirok scored twice to lead host Nashville over St. Louis.

James Neal also scored and Pekka Rinne made 23 saves for the Predators, who have won two straight.

Red Wings 3, Canucks 1: Jimmy Howard stopped 36 shots and host Detroit defeated Vancouver.

Dylan Larkin, Brendan Smith and Steve Ott scored for Detroit.

Lightning 4, Islanders 1: Steven Stamkos had a goal and two assists, Andrei Vasilevski made 31 saves and host Tampa Bay beat New York.

Nikita Kucherov, Tyler Johnson and Brian Boyle also scored for the Lightning, who have outscored the Islanders 10-2 in winning the first two games of the season series.

Canadiens 4, Kings 1: Carey Price made 24 saves and host Montreal beat Los Angeles to stay perfect in nine home games this season.

Paul Byron, Daniel Carr, Philip Danault and Alex Galchenyuk, into an empty net, scored for Montreal (12-1-1), which has won three straight.

Ducks 4, Hurricanes 2: Jakob Silfverberg scored two second-period goals and added two assists as visiting Anaheim beat Carolina.

Ryan Kesler also had two goals for the Ducks, including an empty-netter with 26 seconds left. Jonathan Bernier stopped 28 shots.

Bruins 5, Blue Jackets 2: David Backes, David Krejci and Austin Czarnik all had two points apiece for Boston against visiting Columbus.

The Bruins won for the fifth time in seven games and have scored 11 goals in two wins over Columbus this season.

Stars 4, Flames 2: Jamie Benn snapped a nine-game scoring drought with two goals, including the game-winner on a third-period power play, and visiting Dallas beat Calgary to snap a five-game losing streak.

Lauri Korpikoski and Antoine Roussel, with an empty-netter, also scored for Dallas (5-6-3).

Jets 3, Coyotes 2: Nikolaj Ehlers, Blake Wheeler and Andrew Copp scored to help visiting Winnipeg beat Arizona.

The Jets won for the third time in four games and have earned at least a point in four of five.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Montreal	14	12	1	1	25	46	31		
Tampa Bay	14	12	1	1	17	45	39		
Detroit	15	8	5	1	17	37	32		
Ottawa	13	8	5	0	16	32	32		
Boston	14	8	5	1	17	33	28		
Toronto	13	5	7	3	13	37	48		
Buffalo	13	5	7	3	16	26	31		
Florida	14	6	7	1	13	37	37		
Metropolitan Division									
N.Y. Rangers	14	10	3	0	20	58	34		
Pittsburgh	14	9	3	2	20	43	36		
Washington	12	8	3	1	17	33	28		
New Jersey	12	6	3	3	15	29	27		
Columbus	12	6	3	3	15	29	27		
Philadelphia	13	5	6	2	14	49	51		
N.Y. Islanders	13	5	6	2	14	37	48		
Carolina	13	6	6	1	10	33	45		

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Chicago	14	3	0	21	49	34			
St. Louis	15	7	3	3	17	33	39		
Minnesota	15	7	4	1	17	37	24		
Winnipeg	12	5	5	1	15	45	45		
Nashville	13	5	5	3	13	34	37		
Dallas	14	5	6	3	17	46	39		
Colorado	14	5	6	0	10	24	37		
Pacific Division									
Edmonton	14	9	4	1	19	43	35		
Anaheim	14	8	5	1	17	43	39		
San Jose	14	8	6	0	16	34	34		
Los Angeles	14	6	6	0	14	36	44		
Vancouver	15	5	9	0	10	36	44		
Calgary	15	5	9	1	11	38	25		
Arizona	13	8	0	1	17	37	28		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime/loss.

Thursday's games
Boston 5, Columbus 3
Anaheim 4, Carolina 2
Minnesota 4, Pittsburgh 2
Montreal 4, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Islanders 1
Detroit 3, Vancouver 1
San Jose 4, Florida 2
Dallas 5, St. Louis 1
Winnipeg 3, Arizona 2

Friday's games
New Jersey 3, Buffalo 2
Los Angeles at Ottawa
Washington at Chicago
Winnipeg at Colorado
Dallas at Edmonton

Saturday's games
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Buffalo at New Jersey
Silverdale at Carolina
N.Y. Islanders at Florida
San Jose at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Montreal
Toronto at Pittsburgh
Minnesota at Ottawa
Boston at Arizona

Sunday's games
Los Angeles at Winnipeg
Dallas at Vancouver
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
Montreal at Chicago
Boston at Colorado
N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton

Thursday

Red Wings 3, Canucks 1
Vancouver 0 0 1-1
Detroit 0 0 1-1

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Larkin 5 (Oyuki, Zetterberg), 0:32. 2, Detroit, Smith 2 (Zetterberg, Kronwall), 18:26.

Second Period—None.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 3; Detroit 4 of 2.
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 14-11-37. Detroit 8-11-27.

Goals—Vancouver, Miller 1-7-27 (shots-24 saves). Detroit, Howard 4-2-0 (shots-20 saves).
A=20,027 (20,666). T=2:28.

Predators 3, Blues 1

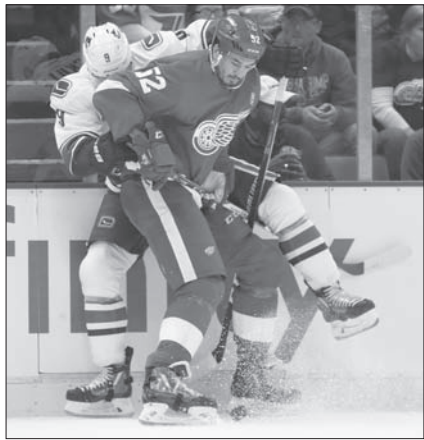
St. Louis 1 0 0-1
Nashville 0 1 0-2
First Period—1, St. Louis, Selinger 3 (Taranenko, Parayko), 3:59.
Second Period—Nashville, Jankirok 2 (Wilson, Irwin), 18:26.
Third Period—3, Nashville, Neal 4 (Abene, Selinger), 3:44. 4, Nashville, Jankirok 3 (Forsberg, Fisher), 4:50.
Shots on Goal—St. Louis 11-6-24. Nashville 9-10-28.
Goals—Nashville, Selinger 1-0-2 (shots-25 saves). Hutton 2-2-0 (shots-25 saves). Nashville, Rinne 4-4-3 (24-23).

A=17,259 (17,113). T=2:24.

Wild 4, Penguins 2

Minnesota 1 1 2-4
Pittsburgh 0 1 0-3
First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Horvath 1 (Kessel, Letang), 7:53 (pp.). 2, Minnesota, Coyte 4 (Staal, Stuart), 18:09 (pp.).
Second Period—Minnesota, Horvath 2 (Kreider, Letang), 12:26 (pp.). Pittsburgh, Horvath 5 (Malkin, Kessel), 7:53 (pp.). 4, Minnesota, Letang 1 (Staal), 20:07.
Third Period—5, Minnesota, Staal 5 (Kreider, Letang), 1:53 (pp.).
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 15-16-41. Pittsburgh 10-15-41.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 1 of 3; Pittsburgh 0 of 2.
Goals—Minnesota, Dubnyk 6-3-1 (24 shots-29 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 6-3-2 (43-40).

A=18,458 (18,387). T=2:34.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Red Wings defenseman Jonathan Ericsson, front, checks Canucks right wing Nick Kille in the boards during the first period of Thursday's game in Detroit. The Red Wings won 3-1.

Ducks 4, Hurricanes 2

Anaheim 0 3 1-4
Carolina 0 0 1-1
First Period—1, Anaheim, Kesler 2 (Silfverberg, Cogliano), 4:46. 2, Anaheim, Silfverberg 4 (Cogliano, Fowler), 8:30. 3, Anaheim, Silfverberg 5, 12:36. 4, Carolina, Tereyainen 3 (Aho, Slavin), 14:52.
Second Period—5, Carolina, Rask 5 (Stempniak, Skinner), 3:15. 6, Anaheim, Kesler 6 (Silfverberg, Getzlaf), 19:24.
Shots on Goal—Anaheim 9-12-27.
Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 3; Carolina 0 of 2.
Goals—Anaheim, Bernier 2-1-0 (30 shots-28 saves). Carolina, Lack 1-2-1 (0-0).
A=8,086 (18,680). T=2:39.

Jets 3, Coyotes 2

Winnipeg 1 1 1-3
Arizona 0 2 0-2
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Copp 2 (Enstrom, Scheifele), 4:50. 2, Arizona, Vrba 5 (Mcguinn, Martinsson), 9:48.
Second Period—3, Winnipeg, Wheeler 4 (Myers, Petan), 10:18.
Third Period—4, Winnipeg, Ehlers 4 (Laine), 16:46. 5, Arizona, Rieder 3 (Dorn, Dorn), 19:28.
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 3-9-15-27.
Goals—Winnipeg, Hellberg 5-4-0 (25 shots-23 saves). Arizona, Domingue 4-0-0 (27-24).
A=11,185 (17,125). T=2:21.

Stars 4, Flames 2

Dallas 0 2 0-2
Calgary 0 2 0-2
First Period—1, Dallas, Korpikoski 3 (Faksa), 12:31. 2, Dallas, Benn 3 (Klingberg, Fackell), 18:25.
Second Period—3, Calgary, Gaudreau 3 (Kulak, Monahan), 1:33. 4, Dallas, Gaudreau 4 (Frolik, Kulak), 3:31.
Third Period—5, Dallas, Benn 4 (Rousseau, Sequin), 7:20 (pp.). 6, Dallas, Roussel 2 (Dowling), 19:06.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 10-4-28. Calgary 10-11-31.
Goals—Dallas, Lehtonen 2-4-1 (31 shots-29 saves). Calgary, Elliott 3-2-1 (21-18).
A=18,795 (19,289). T=2:30.

Sharks 4, Panthers 2

San Jose 1 1 2-4
Florida 0 1 0-2
First Period—1, Florida, Demers 3 (McCarthy, Demers), 2:30. 2, San Jose, Jaeger, 7:26. 3, San Jose, Burns 6, 16:18.
Second Period—4, San Jose, Pavelski 5 (Kulak, Monahan), 1:33. 4, San Jose, Burns 6, 16:18.
Third Period—5, San Jose, Wingels 2 (Tierney), 8:52. 6, San Jose, Couture 3 (Braun), 19:03.
Shots on Goal—San Jose 11-8-10-29. Florida 11-6-27-24.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; Florida 0 of 1.
Goals—San Jose, Jones 7-6-0 (24 shots-29 saves). Florida, Reimer 2-1-2 (28-25).
A=11,703 (17,040). T=2:23.

Canadiens 4, Kings 1

Los Angeles 0 0 1-1
Montreal 2 1 1-4
First Period—1, Montreal, Byron 4 (Emelin, Radulov), 7:48. 2, Montreal, Carr 1 (Mikhailov, Markov), 12:53.
Second Period—3, Montreal, Danault 4 (Pacquette, Poiry), 25:27.
Third Period—4, Montreal, Toftoli 4 (Kopitar, Carter), 11:57 (pp.). 5, Montreal, Galchenyuk 6 (Pacquette, Beaulieu), 18:11.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 6-7-11. Montreal 13-15-23.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 1; Montreal 0 of 2.
Goals—Los Angeles, Boudreau 7-4-0 (22 shots-19 saves). Montreal, Price 9-0-0 (24-23).
A=21,288 (21,273). T=2:27.

Lightning 4, Islanders 1

N.Y. Islanders 0 1 0-1
Tampa Bay 2 1 1-4
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 8 (Johnson, Nemesnikov), 8:03 (pp.). 2, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 5 (Hedman, Stamkos), 11:09.
Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Johnson 5 (Palat, Stamkos), 2:50 (pp.). 4, N.Y. Islanders, Ladd 2 (Boychuk), 8:04.
Third Period—5, Tampa Bay, Boyle 4 (Paukert), 1:08.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 9-16-27. Tampa Bay 10-17-11.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 1; Tampa Bay 2 of 6.
Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Halak 3-4-2 (16 shots-13 saves). Greiss 2-2-0 (12-11). Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 5-1-1 (32-31).
A=19,052 (19,204). T=2:21.

Bruins 5, Blue Jackets 2

Columbus 1 0 1-2
Boston 4 1 0-5
First Period—1, Columbus, Foligno 5 (Wennergren), 2:29. 2, Boston, Krug 1 (Krejci, Backes), 8:47. 3, Boston, Beleskey 3 (Zarnik), 9:55. 4, Boston, Zarnik 2 (Nash, Beleskey), 12:24. 5, Boston, Schaller (Moore), 12:48.
Second Period—5, Boston, Backes 3 (Krejci, Spooner), 11:51.
Third Period—7, Columbus, Gagner 4, 8:47.
Shots on Goal—Columbus 7-7-18. Boston 11-11-30-32.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 3; Boston 0 of 7.
Goals—Columbus, McElhinney 0-0-1 (23 shots-25 saves). Bobrovsky 6-4-1 (9-5). Boston, Fleury 10-0-1 (17-15).
A=17,265 (17,565). T=2:31.

Scoring Leaders

Through Thursday, Nov. 10

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Mark Scheifele, WPG	14	8	9	17
Artemi Panarin, CHL	14	8	9	17
Steven Stamkos, TB	14	8	9	17
Patrick Kane, CHI	14	5	12	17
Connor McDavid, EDM	14	5	12	17
Patrick Kane, CHI	14	5	12	17
Nikita Kucherov, TB	13	5	11	16
Tyler Seguin, DAL	14	8	15	16
Artemi Panarin, CHL	14	8	15	16
Clayton Kopp, PHI	14	6	9	15
Patrick Kane, CHI	14	6	9	15
Jack Hughes, NJR	14	4	11	15
4 tied with 14 pts.				

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					Los Angeles				
Atlantic Division					Sacramento				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Toronto	5	2	.714	—	16	29	25	31-101	18-91
New York	3	4	.429	2	30	25	18	18-91	9-27
Boston	3	4	.429	2	Three-Point Goals—Los Angeles 9-27				
Brooklyn	3	5	.375	2½	(Young 4-9, Williams 3-6, Clarkson 1-3,				
Philadelphia	3	5	.375	2½	Russell 1-4, Nance 0-1, Ingram 0-1, Randle				
					0-1, Deng 0-2, Sacramento 8-21 (Cousins				
					3-6, Lawson 2-3, Afflalo 1-2, Tolliver 3-				
					Barnes 1-4, Gay 0-3). Fouled Out—None				
					Rebounds—Los Angeles 42 (Randle 8,				
					Sacramento 43 (Cousins 9). Assists—Los				
					Angeles 18 (Randle, Clarkson 5), Sacra-				
					mento 18 (Collison 9). Total Fouls—Los				
					Angeles 19, Sacramento 19. A—17,608				
					(17,500).				

Southeast Division					Warriors 125, Nuggets 101				
	W	L	Pct	GB	GOLDEN STATE — Durant 8-16 2-2 18,				
Charlotte	6	1	.857	—	Green 2-2 13, Paul 2-2 0-4, Curry				
Atlanta	6	2	.750	1½	10-17 6-6 33, Thompson 7-14 2-2 19, West				
Orlando	5	3	.625	2	2-11 2-5, Looney 1-1 0-0 2, Varejao 0-1 2-2				
Miami	5	3	.625	2	2, McCaw 4-6 2-2 10, Livingston 3-4 0-0 6,				
Washington	2	5	.286	4	Igoudala 1-4 0-0 2, Clark 1-4 0-3, McCaw				
					3-6 2-8. Totals 46-85 19-20 125.				
					DENVER — Gallinari 2-9 6-7 11, Nurkic				
					4-5 1-2 9, Jokić 4-2 2-4, Mudyay 4-15 0-0				
					10, Harris 5-7 0-2 11, Hernandez 2-1 0-2				
					1-2 1-1, Faried 4-9 0-0 8, Stokes 1-1 0-0 2,				
					Nelson 0-4 0-0, Miller 3-4 0-0 9, Beasley				
					5-10 0-12, Murray 5-2 2-14. Totals 38-				
					94 12-17 101.				

Western Conference					Golden State				
Southwest Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Houston	5	3	.625	—	38	27	34	26-125	19-91
San Antonio	4	4	.500	1	19	32	24	26-101	9-27
Mempis	4	4	.500	1	Three-Point Goals—Golden State 14-				
Dallas	2	6	.250	3	30 (Curry 7-13, Green 3-4, Thompson 3-4,				
New Orleans	1	8	.111	4½	Clark 1-3, Igoudala 0-1, McCaw 0-2, Dur-				
					ant 0-3). Denver 13-36 (Miller 3-4, Her-				
					nandez 3-3, Beasley 2-5, Mudyay 2-5,				
					Murray 2-7, Harris 1-2, Gallinari 1-5, Nel-				
					son 0-2, Jokić 0-3). Fouled Out—None.				
					Rebounds—Golden State 44 (Durant, Green				
					9), Denver 44 (Faried 11). Assists—Golden				
					State 23 (Curry 7), Denver 23 (Curry 7).				
					Total Fouls—Golden State 18, Denver 18.				
					Technical—Denver defensive three sec-				
					ond, Denver team, A—17,669 (19,150).				

Northwest Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Oklahoma City	5	2	.750	—	L.A. Clippers	7	1	.875	—
Portland	4	4	.500	1½	Golden State	6	2	.750	—
Utah	4	4	.500	1½	L.A. Lakers	4	4	.500	2½
Denver	3	5	.375	3	L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	4
Minnesota	2	5	.286	3½	Phoenix	3	6	.333	4½

Wednesday's games					Friday's games				
Charlotte 104, Utah 98					Cleveland at Washington				
Indiana 122, Philadelphia 115, OT					Indiana at Philadelphia				
Minnesota 123, Orlando 107					Toronto at Charlotte				
New York 110, Brooklyn 96					Utah at Orlando				
Orlando 115, Boston 93					New York at Boston				
Atlanta 115, Chicago 107					L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City				
Toronto 112, Oklahoma City 102					Sacramento at Portland				
Phoenix 107, Detroit 100					Boston at Indiana				
Houston 101, San Antonio 99					L.A. Lakers at New Orleans				
Golden State 116, Dallas 95					New York at Toronto				
L.A. Clippers 111, Portland 80					Philadelphia at Atlanta				

Thursday's games					Saturday's games				
Chicago 98, Miami 95					Cleveland at Washington				
New Orleans 112, Milwaukee 106					Indiana at Philadelphia				
Golden State 125, Denver 101					Toronto at Charlotte				
L.A. Lakers 101, Sacramento 91					Utah at Orlando				

Friday's games					Saturday's games				
Cleveland at Washington					Chicago 98, Miami 95				
Indiana at Philadelphia					New Orleans 112, Milwaukee 106				
Toronto at Charlotte					Golden State 125, Denver 101				
Utah at Orlando					L.A. Lakers 101, Sacramento 91				
New York at Boston									
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City									
Sacramento at Portland									
Boston at Indiana									
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans									
New York at Toronto									
Philadelphia at Atlanta									
Golden State at Houston									
San Antonio at Houston									
Utah at Miami									
Washington at Chicago									
Mempis at Milwaukee									
Brooklyn at Phoenix									
Detroit at Denver									

Saturday's games					Sunday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Sunday's games					Monday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					Atlanta at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Tuesday's games					Wednesday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Wednesday's games					Thursday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					Atlanta at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Thursday's games					Friday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Friday's games					Saturday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Saturday's games					Sunday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Sunday's games					Monday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Monday's games					Tuesday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Tuesday's games					Wednesday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Wednesday's games					Thursday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Thursday's games					Friday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Friday's games					Saturday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Saturday's games					Sunday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota				
Atlanta at Minnesota					Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Phoenix at Golden State					Phoenix at Portland				

Sunday's games					Monday's games				
Charlotte at Cleveland					A. Lakers at Minnesota		</		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



SAMANTHA BAKER/AP

Arkansas' Rawleigh Williams III, center, outruns Florida's Nick Washington, left, and DeAndre Goolsby during the second half of last week's game in Fayetteville, Ark. Arkansas beat Florida 31-10.

Confident Arkansas eyes 3rd straight win over LSU

By KURT VOIGT
Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Brooks Ellis has seen a steady growth in his four seasons at Arkansas, from winless in the Southeastern Conference as a freshman in 2013 to an improvement in win total each year since.

The Razorbacks middle linebacker still has hope of continuing that streak this season, with Arkansas (6-3, 2-3 SEC) needing three more wins to top the eight it finished with a season ago.

Ellis played a role in helping the Razorbacks keep those hopes alive last week with a 31-10 win over previously No. 10-ranked Florida, and he expects to do the same when Arkansas hosts No. 19 LSU (5-3, 3-2) on Saturday.

If the senior is brimming with confidence against the now Ed Orgeron-led Tigers, it's with good reason. The Razorbacks have won two straight over their rivals to the south, doing so in convincing fashion — outscoring LSU by a total of 48-14 over that stretch.

"We've done it in the past, so we know we can do it again," Ellis said.

The biggest factor in Arkansas' recent two-year run of dominance against the Tigers has been its defense against the run.

In short, the Razorbacks have completely taken away LSU's ability to do just that — holding the Tigers to only 95 yards rushing on 62 carries over the last two games. Even star LSU running back Leonard Fournette has struggled to produce a breakout game against Arkansas, though Orgeron expects a much different



AP

Running back Leonard Fournette is averaging 7.1 yards per carry this season, but LSU has gained just 95 yards rushing the last two years against Arkansas.

result on Saturday.

"I expect (Fournette) to play well," Orgeron said. "I expect him to come back with a great attitude. I expect him to shake it off and have a good game against Arkansas and finish strong."

Some other things to watch as Arkansas tries for its third straight win over the Tigers, something the Razorbacks haven't done since the 1927-29 seasons:

Line movement: Two weeks after allowing 543 yards rushing in a loss to Auburn, Arkansas held Florida to only 12 yards rushing on 14 carries a week ago.

The Razorbacks were aided by several personnel changes on defense, including increased playing time for talented freshman defensive tackle McTelvin Agim and a move to defensive end for senior Jeremiah Ledbetter.

Running Tigers: While Fournette remains one of the top running backs in the country this season, averaging 7.1 yards per carry, the junior has had plenty of assistance from backfield teammate Derrius Guice. The sophomore is averaging 7.9 yards per carry and has rushed for 629 yards on only 80 carries.

Alabama hangover: Just like each of the last two seasons, the Tigers come into the game against Arkansas following a loss to Alabama. This time around, it's also their first loss under Orgeron since the former defensive assistant took over for the fired Les Miles in September.

Ranked delight: Saturday's game will mark the 25th time Arkansas coach Bret Bielema has faced a ranked opponent in his first 48 games at the school. The Razorbacks have faced seven ranked opponents this season, with LSU being the fifth straight.

Recovering Allen: Arkansas quarterback Austin Allen is second in the SEC in passing efficiency, but he struggled early in last week's win over Florida — his first game after injuring his right knee against Auburn. Still, the junior finished 15-for-26 passing for 243 yards, and is tied for the league lead with 19 touchdown passes in his first season as the starter.

AP Sports Writer Brett Martel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, contributed to this report.

Five things for Week 11

Lack of big games could mean upsets

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Call it Upset Awareness Week-end in college football.

With only one game matching ranked teams — No. 25 Baylor is at No. 9 Oklahoma — the possibility exists for some unlikely results. The only Top-25 team not favored by odds makers against its unranked foe heading into Week 11 is No. 11 West Virginia, a two-point underdog at Texas.

Five things to know for a week with potential for surprises — or a lot of status quo.

Game of the week

Southern California at No. 4 Washington: If any of the teams in playoff position are going to go down, the Huskies are most likely. If you haven't seen USC since its 1-3 start, this team does not look much like that one. The Trojans have won five straight and quarterback Sam Darnold is quickly establishing himself as a star.

The Huskies got some bad news this week with the injury to pass rusher Joe Mathis (foot surgery). Still, Washington would appear to have an advantage on the lines of scrimmage, where USC has had to piece it together on both sides because of depth issues and injuries.

Heisman watch

D'Onta Foreman of Texas has run for 591 yards in his last two games to take over the national rushing lead from San Diego State star Donnell Pumphrey.

Those are staggering numbers but they come with one qualifier: Foreman ran for 341 yards last week against Texas Tech, and the Red Raiders' defense is so bad that there has to be at least a little bit of a mark-down. Still, Foreman has been tremendous and the Heisman hype is rightfully starting to come his way.

This week West Virginia and a defense that has been left good come to Austin. If Foreman can go for big numbers against the Mountaineers, he'll validate the hype.

Numbers to know

82 — The number of gains of 10 yards or more from scrimmage No. 2 Michigan has allowed this season, second-fewest in the nation. The Wolverines visit Iowa. The Hawkeyes' offense has 102 plays of at least 10 yards, tied for 117th in the nation.

50 — Oklahoma State has averaged half a hundred during its seven-game winning streak against Texas Tech. The Cowboys have scored at least 45 points in each of their last five games against the Red Raiders and gone over 50 four times.

39 — The number of victories Nick Saban has while coaching a team that is ranked No. 1. All those victories have come during his 10-year run with Alabama, and with another one this week against Mississippi State, he'll match Woody Hayes and Bobby Bowden for the most wins with a top-ranked team by any coach.

Under the radar

Rutgers goes to Michigan State in a battle (or something) for last place in the Big Ten East. The Scarlet Knights and Spartans are both 0-7 in the conference and 2-7 overall.

Not surprising that Rutgers is in this predicament in a rebuilding season under first-year coach Chris Ash. Michigan State's downfall is one of the most startling developments of the season.

Under coach Mark Dantonio, the Spartans have won two of the last three Big Ten titles and at least 11 games in five of the last six seasons.

Coach in need of a win

The season started with speculation about Kevin Sumlin's job security at Texas A&M. The Aggies (7-2) jumped out to a 6-0 start and that pretty much went away. Even after a loss to top-ranked Alabama, Texas A&M fans had reason to be feeling good.

Now, all of a sudden, Sumlin could use a victory Saturday against Mississippi to keep everyone calm. He'll have to get it with backup quarterback Jake Hubenak filling in for Trevor Knight (shoulder), who is out for the season. Ole Miss has its own problems with star quarterback Chad Kelly (knee) now out for the season.

Lose this one and A&M would go into its regular-season finale against LSU on a three-game SEC losing streak.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Sam Darnold and Southern California go into Saturday's home game against No. 4 Washington riding a five-game winning streak.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Player to watch

Kerryon Johnson RB | Auburn

If teammate Kamryn Pettway, the nation's No. 4 rusher, can't play or his carries are limited by a left leg injury, Johnson has strong credentials with 616 yards rushing and nine touchdowns. Johnson already has started four games this season, so he would be comfortable if given the lead role. Georgia has won eight of the last 10 in the series.

No. 8 Auburn at Georgia
9:30 p.m. Saturday
Central European Time
AFN-Atlantic



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Oklahoma expects to have running back Samaje Perine back on the field Saturday (6 p.m. Central European Time, AFN-Sports) against No. 25 Baylor after he missed three games with a pulled muscle in his right leg. The Sooners will also have RB Joe Mixon back following a one-game suspension.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
Clemson	5	0	9
Louisville	6	1	8
Wake Forest	3	2	6
Florida St.	3	3	6
Syracuse	2	3	5
NC State	1	4	5
Boston College	1	5	4
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
Virginia Tech	5	1	7
North Carolina	5	2	7
Miami	2	3	5
Pittsburgh	2	3	5
Georgia Tech	2	3	4
Duke	1	5	4
Virginia	1	4	2

Game of the week: No. 2 Georgia Tech at No. 18 Virginia Tech. The Hokies can take another step toward their first ACC championship game berth since 2011 by beating a Yellow Jackets team that didn't do them any favors last week in a loss to the other Coastal Division contender, No. 21 North Carolina. Virginia Tech plays its final two league games in the friendly confines of Lane Stadium and knows it must be better against a team that is one victory shy of bowl eligibility.

Inside the numbers: Only five of 14 ACC teams are over .500 in league play so far.

Player to watch: N.C. State RB Matt Daves. Look for him to put up some big numbers against a leaky Syracuse defense. Daves trails only Jackson and Florida State's Dalvin Cook among ACC rushers, and is 169 yards shy of the 1,000-yard mark for the season. Defense has been a big problem for the Orange, who are 12th or worse in the league in all four major defensive stat categories.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Michigan	6	0	9
Ohio St.	5	1	8
Penn St.	5	1	7
Indiana	3	3	5
Maryland	2	4	5
Michigan St.	0	6	2
Rutgers	0	6	2
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Nebraska	4	2	7
Wisconsin	4	2	7
Minnesota	4	2	7
Iowa	3	3	5
Northwestern	3	3	4
Illinois	2	4	3
Purdue	1	5	3

Game of the week: No. 2 Michigan at Iowa. The last time Michigan went to Iowa City as the No. 2-ranked team, in 1995, Jim Harbaugh was the quarterback and the then-No. 1 Hawkeyes dashed the Wolverines' national championship hopes with a 12-10 win. The Hawkeyes were all but eliminated from the West Division play with last week's 41-14 loss at Penn State. But the Wolverines have lost three straight in Iowa City since last winning there in 2005.

Inside the numbers: Illinois' three quarterbacks have combined to throw three interceptions, ranking fourth in the FBS and tied for first in the Big Ten.

Player to watch: Michigan QB Wilton Speight. He is coming off the best game of his career, having completed nearly 80 percent of his passes and throwing for 362 yards against Maryland, including a school-record 292 in the first half. Iowa has given up 29 pass plays of 20 yards or longer. If Speight gets on a roll, the Wolverines will be hard to stop.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All
Oklahoma	6	0	7
Oklahoma St.	5	1	7
West Virginia	4	1	7
Taylor	3	2	6
TCU	3	3	5
Kansas	3	3	4
Texas	3	3	5
Texas Tech	2	4	5
Kansas State	2	4	5
Iowa St.	0	6	1

Game of the week: No. 11 West Virginia at Texas. The Mountaineers are exceeding expectations, still contending for a Big 12 title and with a tough closing stretch that includes a home game next week against No. 9 Oklahoma. Before that, West Virginia travels to play a Texas team that has won its last two games while D'Onta Foreman has had consecutive 200-yard rushing games. The Longhorns have won consecutive games for the first time since starting 2-0, taking some heat off third-year coach Charlie Strong. WVU and Texas have split their four meetings as Big 12 foes.

Inside the numbers: Kansas State and TCU, who are both 5-4 and off this week, are one win shy of bowl eligibility.

Player to watch: Oklahoma State QB Mason Rudolph. He has thrown for 1,693 yards with 16 touchdowns and two interceptions in the 17th-ranked Cowboys' five-game Big 12 winning streak. Oklahoma State hosts Texas Tech on Saturday.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All
Washington	6	0	9
Washington St.	6	0	7
Stanford	4	3	6
California	2	4	5
Oregon	1	5	3
Oregon St.	1	5	2
South			
Conf.	W	L	All
Colorado	5	1	7
Southern Cal	5	2	6
Utah	5	2	8
Arizona St.	2	5	5
UCLA	1	5	3
Arizona	0	6	2

Game of the week: No. 8 Washington at Southern Cal. Washington's hopes for a spot in the College Football Playoff face potentially three major challenges in the final four weeks of the season, beginning with the surging Trojans. The Huskies are coming off a 66-point outburst against California, led by the six touchdown passes of QB Jake Browning. But USC is rolling, having won five straight behind QB Sam Darnold. The Trojans have scored 40 or more points in four of the last five games.

Inside the numbers: The 66 points allowed by Cal in the 66-27 loss to Washington tied the school modern-era record for most points allowed in a game.

Player to watch: Colorado CB Chidobe Awuzie. The versatile senior can play multiple positions and is a disruptive force in blitz packages, holding the CU record for sacks by a defensive back with three. Whichever QB starts for Arizona — Anu Solomon or Brandon Dawkins — will need to keep an eye on Awuzie at all times.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force
vs. Colorado State
Last week: Beat
Army 31-12
Next game: at San Jose State, Nov. 19

Army
vs. Notre Dame at San Antonio
Last week: Lost to Air Force 31-12
Next game: vs. Morgan State, Nov. 19

Navy
vs. Tulsa
Last week: Beat Notre Dame 28-27
Next game: at East Carolina, Nov. 19

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE	
Thursday	
Duke 28, No. 15 North Carolina 27	No. 13 Utah 49, Arizona State 26
Friday	
No. 20 Florida State vs. Boston College	
Saturday	
No. 1 Alabama vs. Mississippi State	No. 2 Michigan at Iowa
No. 3 Clemson vs. Pittsburgh	No. 4 Washington vs. Southern Cal
No. 5 Louisville vs. Wake Forest	No. 6 Ohio State at Maryland
No. 7 Wisconsin vs. Illinois	No. 8 Auburn at Georgia
No. 9 Oklahoma vs. No. 25 Baylor	No. 10 Texas A&M vs. Mississippi
No. 11 West Virginia at Texas	No. 12 Penn State at Indiana
No. 16 Colorado at Arizona	No. 17 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech
No. 18 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech	No. 19 LSU at Arkansas
No. 21 Nebraska vs. Minnesota	No. 22 Florida vs. South Carolina
No. 23 Washington State vs. California	No. 24 Boise State at Hawaii

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Florida	4	2	6
Kentucky	4	3	5
Georgia	4	3	5
South Carolina	3	4	4
Tennessee	3	3	3
Vanderbilt	1	4	5
Missouri	0	5	2
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Alabama	6	0	9
Texas A&M	4	2	7
LSU	4	2	6
Texas	3	3	3
Mississippi St.	2	3	4
Mississippi	1	4	5

Game of the week: No. 8 Auburn at Georgia. The Tigers still control their own destiny in the SEC West Division with three weeks left to go this season, but they didn't look great in a 23-16 victory over Vanderbilt last week. Georgia is the latest East Division team to see if it can shake up the league's power structure. The Bulldogs are coming off a last-second win at Kentucky.

Inside the numbers: No. 1 Alabama's 10-0 victory over LSU was its 13th straight win over a ranked team, the third-longest such streak in history. USC beat 16 straight ranked teams from 2002-05, and Oklahoma won 15 straight from 1973-75.

Player to watch: Vanderbilt line-backer Zach Cunningham. He leads the SEC with 94 tackles. Last week, Cunningham produced one of the most spectacular plays of the season when he figured out the snapper's cadence and leaped over the line of scrimmage to block a field goal late in the fourth quarter of a 23-16 loss at Auburn.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 13 Utah cruises to win over Arizona State

WR Singleton hauls in three TDs for Utes

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Utah was concerned about Arizona State's attacking defense. Turns out the Utes can bring a little pressure, too.

Joe Williams had another big game in his post-retirement tour and No. 13 Utah had 11 sacks among its 22 tackles for loss, leading the Utes to a 49-26 win over Arizona State Thursday night.

"We just kept plugging away and the flood gates just opened up near the end of the game," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said.

Utah (8-2, 5-2 Pac-12, No. 15 CFP) overcame a slow start with a series of spectacular plays against the FBS' worst passing defense to end an eight-game losing streak in Tempe.

Williams ran for 181 yards and a pair of scores, giving him 844 yards and five touchdowns in four games since returning from a four-week retirement.

Troy Williams threw for 296 yards and three of his four touchdown passes to Raelon Singleton, who had 116 yards on four catches to help the Utes stay within reach of No. 16 Colorado in the Pac-12 South.

Utah's defense found a new level of pressure.

The Utes harassed Arizona State quarterback Manny Wilkins all night, most of it coming from Hunter Dimick. The senior defensive end entered the game with seven sacks and nearly doubled his total against Wilkins, pulling him down five times to break the school record.

Utah had six sacks in the fourth quarter and now has the two highest single-game sack totals in FBS this season.

"We probably missed him as much as we got him," Dimick said. "That dude was a freak athlete, but toward the end we fortunately were able to get him bottled up."

Wilkins was adept at avoiding some tackles with some how-did-he-do-that moves in his return from injury, but also made some key mistakes.

He threw an interception in the end zone in the first quarter and Chase Hansen put the game out of reach by returning an interception 43 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Wilkins finished with 309 yards and a touchdown on 19-for-31 passing.

"They had a great game plan and stuck to it," Arizona State safety Marcus Ball said. "They did some things and schemes, but down the stretch we had some self-inflicted wounds that cost us."

The takeaway: Utah's defense was at its harassing best and its offense had a nice balance, setting the Utes up nicely for the season's final two games.

Arizona State got a spark from Wilkins' return, but couldn't protect him or stop giving up big plays on defense. The Sun Devils need to win one of their final two games to become bowl eligible.

Up next: Utah hosts Oregon next Saturday before playing at No. 16 Colorado in a potential showdown for the Pac-12 South title.

Arizona State hosts No. 4 Washington next Saturday before playing at rival Arizona in its regular-season finale.



MATT YORK/AP

Utah wide receiver Raelon Singleton pulls in a touchdown pass as Arizona State defensive back Chad Adams defends during the first half of the No. 13 Utes' 49-26 win over the Sun Devils on Thursday in Tempe, Ariz.

Jones, Wilson help Duke upset No. 15 Tar Heels

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke waited until it was time to play No. 15 North Carolina to finally cut out all the mistakes that kept haunting the Blue Devils in close losses.

They ran the ball with a physical edge and tightened defensively, then ended their Senior Night by sprinting across the field as time expired to reclaim a lost rivalry trophy.

Daniel Jones ran for two scores and threw for another to help the Blue Devils upset the Tar Heels 28-27 on Thursday night to secure their first Atlantic Coast Conference win.

Duke (4-6, 1-5 ACC) was flirting with its first winless league record since 2007 after a tight loss at No. 5 Louisville and a pair of three-point losses to Georgia Tech and No. 18 Virginia Tech.

"I laid all of that out there: here's the path we've been on, here's how you correct it," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said. "They're smart. They listen, they believe. And that's huge that they keep buying into each other, the loyalty. So that joy, that's huge."

Jones, a redshirt freshman,



GERRY BROOME/AP

Duke's Dylan Singleton, left, and Deondre Singleton celebrate after upsetting No. 15 North Carolina in Durham, N.C., on Thursday. The Blue Devils won 28-27.

ran for 94 yards as part of a ground game that kept moving the chains against the Tar Heels (7-3, 5-2, No. 17 CFP). Shaun Wilson ran for a game-high 107 yards and a score of his own, Duke finished with 227 yards rushing and

converted 10 of 17 third-down chances.

"Our offensive line was doing a tremendous job all game," Jones said, "firing off the ball and being physical and creating that physicality that we want as a team."

That formula was on display at the end, as Duke took more than 6½ minutes off the clock with a long drive from its own 1 before punting back to UNC. The Blue Devils then came up with a final stop, with Alonzo Saxton II picking off Mitch Trubisky near midfield with 1:02 left on a night that ended with Duke players sprinting across the field to re-claim the Victory Bell presented to the winner of the long-running rivalry.

More surprisingly, Duke's defense gradually locked down the Tar Heels' high-scoring offense, which finished with just 31 yards in the final 15 minutes.

"Every time we would make a play, we would shoot ourselves in the foot on the next one or something would happen," Tar Heels coach Larry Fedora said. "There was no consistency whatsoever."

The takeaway: UNC: The Tar Heels likely saw any chance of repeating as the league's Coastal Division champion die with this loss considering they had to keep winning and hope for the Hokies to lose once. But there was a familiar problem with being physical enough to stop the run, on top of the surprising offensive struggles after halftime.

"We missed a big opportunity,"

Trubisky said.

Duke: After a couple of close losses, Duke showed it had enough fortitude to bounce back and play a clean game even as it flirted with the program's first winless ACC record since 2007. Notable in Thursday's performance: no turnovers for the second straight week.

Poll implications: North Carolina will almost certainly slide in the AP Top 25 after this one. The question is whether the Tar Heels — who have been in and out of the poll this season — might fall all the way out again after losing to a winless ACC team with a curiously shaky performance.

Streak snapped: The Tar Heels came into this game with nine straight wins on an opponent's home field, tied with No. 3 Clemson for third longest in the nation behind No. 1 Alabama (11) and No. 9 Oklahoma (10).

Blown lead: North Carolina got off to a sprint of a start, jumping to a 14-0 first-quarter lead behind a sharp Trubisky. The junior completed 12 of his first 15 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns, but threw for just 97 yards on 12-for-18 passing with two interceptions from there. UNC managed only two second-half field goals.

NFL

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	East	West	Pct	Pf	PA
New England	7	1	0	0	875 217 132
Miami	4	4	0	0	500 173 182
Buffalo	4	5	0	0	444 227 203
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	0	333 173 235
South					
Houston	5	3	0	0	625 137 167
Tennessee	4	5	0	0	444 217 226
Indianapolis	4	5	0	0	444 239 256
Jacksonville	2	6	0	0	250 153 215
North					
Baltimore	5	4	0	0	556 182 160
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	0	500 184 171
Cincinnati	4	4	1	0	438 167 189
Cleveland	0	10	0	0	000 175 301
West					
Oakland	7	2	0	0	778 245 223
Kansas City	6	2	0	0	750 185 151
Denver	5	3	0	0	567 214 166
San Diego	4	5	0	0	444 268 247

National Conference

	East	West	Pct	Pf	PA
Dallas	7	1	0	0	875 223 140
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0	0	625 161 164
Washington	4	3	1	0	563 186 189
Philadelphia	4	4	0	0	500 202 145
South					
Atlanta	6	0	0	0	567 305 259
New Orleans	4	4	0	0	500 242 238
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	0	444 210 232
Carolina	3	5	0	0	375 204 206
North					
Minnesota	5	0	0	0	625 155 126
Detroit	4	4	0	0	556 205 206
Green Bay	4	4	0	0	500 198 187
Chicago	2	6	0	0	250 131 179
West					
Seattle	5	0	0	0	688 162 134
Arizona	3	4	1	0	438 179 140
Los Angeles	3	4	0	0	375 130 167
San Francisco	1	7	0	0	125 167 260

Thursday's game

Sunday's games

Atlanta at Philadelphia	1:00
Denver at New Orleans	1:00
Washington at Jacksonville	1:00
Los Angeles at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Kansas City at Carolina	1:00
Chicago at Tampa Bay	1:00
Minnesota at Washington	1:00
Tennessee at Miami	1:00
Miami at San Diego	1:00
San Francisco at Arizona	4:05
Dallas at Pittsburgh	4:05
Seattle at New England	4:05
Houston at Buffalo	4:05
Oakland at Baltimore	4:05

Monday's games

Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants

Thursday, Nov. 17

New Orleans at Carolina

Sunday, Nov. 20

Baltimore at Dallas	1:00
Chicago at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Jacksonville at Detroit	1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis	1:00
Arizona at Minnesota	1:00
Cleveland at Buffalo	1:00
Buffalo at Cincinnati	1:00
San Diego at Kansas City	1:00
Miami at Los Angeles	1:00
New England at San Francisco	1:00
Philadelphia at Seattle	1:00
Green Bay at Washington	1:00
Open: San Diego, Atlanta, Denver, N.Y. Jets	

Monday, Nov. 21

Houston at Oakland

Thursday

Ravens 28, Browns 7

Cleveland

Baltimore

Second Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 25, 10-28.

Cie—DeValve 25 pass from Kessler

(Parkey kick), 6-20.

Bal—FG Tucker 40, -0-0.

Third Quarter

Bal—Wallier 4 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 9-36.

Bal—S. Smith 11 pass from Flacco

(Juszyszak pass from Flacco), 2-05.

Fourth Quarter

Bal—Perriman 27 pass from Flacco

(Tucker kick), 6-21.

A—70-32-1.

First downs

Cie 11

Bal 29

Total Net Yards

Cie 144

Bal 396

Rushes-yards

Cie 13-33

Bal 34-119

Passing

Cie 1-11

Bal 277

Punt Returns

Cie 2-(minus-1)

Bal 3-27

Kickoff Returns

Cie 0-0

Bal 0-0

Interceptions Ret.

Cie 2-0

Bal 2-6

Comp-Att-Int

Cie 17-31-3

Bal 20-30-4

Sacked-Yards Lost

Cie 4-29

Bal 2-18

Penalties-Yards

Cie 3-35

Bal 6-61

Time of Possession

Cie 21:24

Bal 38:36

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Cleveland, Crowell 9-23,

D. Johnson 3-25, C. Coleman 1-7,

Hogan 1-1.

Cleveland, West 21-65, D. Johnson 3-25,

C. Coleman 1-7, Hogan 1-1, Allen 2-3,

Mallett 2-(minus 3).

Cleveland, Kessler 11-18-0,

91, McCown 6-13-2-59, Baltimore, Flacco

30-41-2-296.

RECEIVING—Cleveland, Pryor 5-48,

Crowell 3-30, D. Johnson 3-25, C. Coleman

1-7, Hogan 1-1, Allen 2-3, Mallett 2-(minus 3).

Cleveland, Pitta 6-26, S. Smith

5-60, West 4-42, Wallace 4-59, Perriman

3-6, S. Smith 1-5, Juszyszak 2-4,

5, West 1-12.

KICKED FIELD GOALS—None.

Cowboys visit struggling Steelers

Prescott leads red-hot Dallas into Pittsburgh

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger has seen this show before. Rookie quarterback. Physical running back. Solid defense. A historic hot streak that seems like a portent.

Back in 2004 it was Roethlisberger who was the hot rookie, pairing with Jerome Bettis and the NFL's top-ranked defense to rip off 13 straight wins after replacing injured Tommy Maddox while leading the Steelers to the AFC title game. Now it's Dak Prescott, the 23-year-old with the preternatural calm who has rapidly evolved from fourth-round flyer to perhaps indispensable part of the team that reached midseason atop the NFC.

There is one big difference. While Roethlisberger was asked to serve primarily as a game manager and let the defense do the work — he only passed for more than 200 yards three times as a rookie — Prescott has been asked to do more. In some ways, a lot more. He's on pace to go over 4,000 yards passing and has made Tony Romo, who happens to be the franchise's all-time passing leader, a \$20 million backup.

"He's not just managing games, he's taking games over and doing some pretty awesome stuff," Roethlisberger said of Prescott. "It's fun to watch."



AP Photos

From left, Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott, quarterback Dak Prescott and wide receiver Dez Bryant. The Cowboys have won seven straight heading into Sunday's showdown with the Steelers in Pittsburgh.



Dallas Cowboys (7-1)
at Pittsburgh Steelers (4-4)

AFN Sports

10:25 p.m. Sunday CET

fun to watch."

Not exactly fun to play against.

The Cowboys (7-1) have ripped off seven straight wins, the third-longest run by a rookie quarterback in league history, even if there's a way to go to reach what Roethlisberger did in 2004. The combination of Prescott, rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott and wide receiver Dez Bryant has

quickly become just as dynamic as Pittsburgh's trio of Roethlisberger, Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown.

While Dallas is surging, the Steelers (4-4) are slumping. Their three-game losing streak includes a lifeless performance in Baltimore last weekend that dropped them out of first in the AFC North. There's time to get it together. They did it last year, going 6-2 over the second half to earn a playoff berth. The first step this time will be more difficult than most.

"You want to be playing your best football at this time of year," Roethlisberger said. "If we want to be playing our best, we've got to be playing the best. And one of the best is coming in this week."

No place like home: Despite their slide, the Steelers are a favored by a field goal, a testament

to the way they handle their business at Heinz Field. Roethlisberger has won seven straight home starts, and Pittsburgh is averaging 35 points in those games.

Up-and-down Dez: Star Dallas receiver Dez Bryant has two 100-yard games out of the five he has played. He missed three with a knee injury. But he also has two one-catch games, including last week against Cleveland. In both of those one-catch games tight end Jason Witten and slot receiver Cole Beasley dominated. They combined for 17 catches on 26 targets in the opener against the Giants, and 16 targets for 14 catches against the Browns. Witten had his first 100-yard game in three years last week. Beasley leads Dallas receivers across the board: catches (43), yards (499) and touchdowns (four).

Flourish: Ravens in first place atop AFC North

FROM BACK PAGE

It was also the Baltimore's most lopsided win since a 20-10 victory over Cleveland on Dec. 28, 2014.

Some things we learned about the Ravens and Browns:

Suggs is back: Despite tearing his left biceps last month, Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs continues to excel.

After Cleveland inserted backup quarterback Josh McCown midway through the third quarter, Suggs beat his man and hit McCown's arm as he threw, setting up an interception by teammate Jerrard Powers at the Browns 40.

In the fourth quarter, Suggs stripped McCown to force a fumble recovered by Baltimore.

"I've been around for 14 years, but I still feel young," Suggs said. "I have played with a torn biceps before. I have come back from a torn Achilles before. So I guess it's just in my DNA. My mom and dad did something special when they made me."

Confident in Kessler: Though rookie Cody Kessler was replaced in the third quarter by McCown, Browns coach Hue Jackson said Kessler would start in Cleveland's



Nick Wass/AP

Ravens wide receiver Breshad Perriman, right, tries to get away from Cleveland Browns defensive back Ed Reynolds II on Thursday in Baltimore. The Ravens won 28-7.

next game against Pittsburgh in 10 days.

"Absolutely, I'm still going to play (Kessler)," Jackson said. "He's a young player and I'm going to put him back out there."

Jackson said he removed Kessler "because I wanted a spark." So even though they're winless, the Browns don't have a quarter-

back controversy on their hands.

Finding the end zone: On a night when Ravens receiver Steve Smith caught his 78th career touchdown pass, teammate Breshad Perriman was overjoyed with his first.

The second-year receiver, who missed all of his rookie season after sustaining a knee injury

on his first day of training camp, hauled in Flacco's 27-yard pass with 6:21 to play.

Referees reviewed the catch, but in the end determined Perriman maintained control of the ball as he rolled over in the end zone.

"It was a complete blessing," Perriman said. "(I've been) working for it for a long time, and it finally came today. (It's) just how long it took to get here and all the work you had to put in. All the stuff I've been through."

Second thoughts: The Browns' inability to contain the opposition after halftime — a season-long issue — resurfaced again.

The Ravens outscored them 22-0 after the break. That gives Cleveland's foes a 157-51 edge in the second half and overtime this season.

Jackson can't explain it, and his players are getting tired of addressing the problem.

"This is several games now where we had the lead in the first half and we weren't able to finish them off in the second half," offensive tackle Joe Thomas said. "That's something we will look at here over the next 10 days."

SPORTS

Miami memories

Wade leads Chicago past Heat in return to South Beach » **NBA, Page 27**

NFL

Strong-armed



NICK WASS/AP

Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs, left, strips the ball from Browns quarterback Josh McCown during Thursday's game in Baltimore. The Ravens beat Cleveland 28-7.

First-place Ravens flourish at expense of winless Browns

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

BALTIMORE
Just two weeks ago, the Baltimore Ravens had lost four straight and were working on their second offensive coordinator of the season.

Now they're alone in first place in the AFC North and coming off their most lopsided victory in two years.

After the Ravens (5-4) used an impressive second half to roll past the winless Cleveland Browns 28-7 on Thursday night, Joe Flacco took stock of the situation and smiled.

"It feels good. It's Thursday night and we've got the weekend off," the quarterback said. "It's a lot of fun being part of winning football. It's one of the toughest things to do in the world, to win a game in the NFL."

Oh, don't the Browns know it. Cleveland

has lost the first 10 games of a season for the first time since it joined the league in 1950, and inched closer to joining the 2008 Detroit Lions as the only 0-16 team in NFL history.

They're down, but the Browns haven't quit.

"There are better days ahead for this group," said tight end Seth DeValue, who scored Cleveland's lone touchdown. "We are not flinching and we are not giving up. These guys are working hard every day to get a win."

DeValve's first NFL touchdown gave the Browns a 7-3 lead in the second quarter, but Flacco threw two touchdown passes in the third and another with 6:21 left to provide the Ravens with their second successive win.

It was the first time this season the Ravens were involved in a game decided by more than eight points.

SEE FLOURISH ON PAGE 31

'It's a lot of fun being part of winning football. It's one of the toughest things to do in the world, to win a game in the NFL.'

Joe Flacco
Ravens quarterback



GAIL BURTON/AP

Ravens wide receiver Breshad Perriman, center, celebrates his touchdown with teammate Kamar Aiken, left, as Mike Wallace, right, looks on.

Confident Razorbacks ready for LSU, Fournette » College football, Page 28